FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MAY 1986

Libya

In a speech cited by Tripoli television, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted that the recent U.S. air strike was another attempt by the forces of "traditional colonialism and new colonialism" to "subjugate" and "humiliate" the Arab nation, and dismissed the notion that the issue of terrorism was the basis of the attack. Al-Qadhdhafi said the Jamahiriyah was struck because it represents a "challenging, rising, and an inciting" force, and maintained that the "aggression" did not weaken but increased its determination to fight imperialism and Zionism. He cautioned that although the Jamahiriyah is still "saving its military force," it has the capability of destroying the U.S. 6th Fleet through suicide missions.

Although acknowledging the Egyptian people's hatred of the United States, he nevertheless condemned the "subservient cowardly" Egyptian regime, urging the Egyptian Army and masses to revolt, and warned it and any other Arab country granting facilities to the U.S. 6th Fleet that Libya "will fight" and "punish" them. He also spoke of a possible military attack against Egypt if the Jamahiriyah were to "smell" actions from it aimed at Libya, such as harboring "terrorists" or providing them with training and other support.

As for Western Europe, Al-Qadhdhafi called on Italy to "expel" the U.S. presence there, warning that the Jamahiriyah could not "turn a blind eye" in the event of future U.S. campaigns from that country, and would attempt to attack it. He also alleged that Western leaders secretly contacted him and said that although President Reagan is "crazy" we must deal with him.

The Libyan leader chided the policy of nonalignment which does not protect the small states, and claimed that Libya is, therefore, now closer to the socialist camp than ever before. Libya's chief delegate to the United Nations, 'Ali 'Abd al-Turyaki, disclosed that Libya had received "assurances" of Soviet aid going "beyond encouragement" and revealed that Libya may formalize its "very friendly relations" with the USSR by joining the Warsaw Pact, KUNA reported.

Syria

The Syrian Embassy in London "categorically" denied "involvement in or knowledge of" any alleged terrorist action on British territory, and particularly with regard to last month's El Al incident, according to SANA reporting an embassy statement. The embassy opined that the heightening of the "international smear campaign" against Syria is aimed at justifying a joint U.S.-Israeli "aggression" against it. In further reaction to allegations of Syrian involvement in a bombing attack on the Arab-German Friendship Society in West Berlin, the Syrian ambassador to the GDR, in a news conference reported by East Berlin Voice of GDR radio, asserted that the embassy had "absolutely nothing" to do with the attack, and revealed that Syria had demanded that it be involved in the investigation.

In other developments, Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim "strongly rebutted" Syrian assertions of Iraqi involvement in the recent bombings inside Syria in a statement to INA. The Kuwaiti daily *AL-QABAS* claimed that President Hafiz al-Asad informed Jordan's King Husayn, during their recent meeting, of his readiness to reach "an understanding" with Egypt on conditions, including that country's "retraction" of the Camp David accords.

Israel-Syria

Jerusalem television reported that there are "no signs of tension" on the Israeli-Syrian border, according to Israeli "military" sources, who added that no "change" in the Syrian force's deployment has been observed, and "official" sources in Jerusalem stated that there have been no signs of Syrian "aggressive tendencies" toward Israel within the past few days, according to Jerusalem radio.

Meanwhile, in a statement to KUNA, Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi stated that implementation of Israel's "plan" to launch an "aggression" against Syria would have "dire consequences" for peace and security in the Middle East and "far beyond." Klibi also criticized the U.S. Vice President's recent statement linking Syria with terrorism, and noted that this was made after the U.S. official's meeting with the Israeli defense minister. The chief Libyan UN delegate, 'Ali 'Abd al-Turayki asserted that the United States and Israel are "preparing" public opinion for an attack on Syria, KUNA reported, and he warned that such an aggression would evolve into a war between the Arab states and the United States and Israel. In further allegations, Radio Monte Carlo cited Fatah's Salah Khalaf who revealed that Syria "may be" subjected to "imminent military aggression" by the United States and Israel according to "information" on the U.S.-Israeli "threats" to that country.

In other developments, Jerusalem radio reported that 10 Syrian commandoes captured in southern Lebanon will stand trial "next month" on charges of carrying arms and attempting to attack the IDF and the Army of Southern Lebanon.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil departed Tunisia 8 May following 3 days of talks with Tunisian officials during which he secured their "support" for his views regarding the "conflict" between him and senior Syrian officials on the way to resolve the Lebanese civil war, according to KUNA citing a "high-ranking diplomatic" source. Radio Monte Carlo, citing a diplomatic source in Cairo in a statement to REUTER, reported that Al-Jumayyil stopped over in Cairo on his way to Tunisia and had a meeting with the Egyptian president.

Iran-Iraq War

In further reaction to the recent Iraqi air strikes on Iranian economic and residential targets, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i warned Iraq of the consequences of a resumption of the "war of cities," and stressed that Iraq's attacks would not go unanswered, in an address reported by IRNA.

In air action, Iraq launched strikes on the Ahvaz and Marun oil fields, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, and claimed another attack on a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast. For Iran's part, a military report cited by IRNA claimed that two Iraqi warplanes were downed 8 May over the Al-Faw area, while an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA 9 May rebutted the Iranian allegations and termed them "sheer lies."

DRA-Iran

The DRA made a strong protest to Iran over a news conference given by "counterrevolutionaries" in Tehran 3 May, during which the DRA-Pakistani talks were attacked, according to Kabul radio. The authorities called for an immediate halt to such "hostile propaganda" and predicted that such "unfriendly" actions will only serve to "disrupt" bilateral relations. Citing the news conference as a continuation of an "unbridled anti-Soviet campaign," TASS chided Iran's "pan-Islamic tendencies" and its "growing aggressiveness" with regard to the DRA. It also noted that the current anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan "hullabaloo" is being "whipped up" in Iran at a time when conditions "exist" for making "progress" for a "political settlement" around Afghanistan.

In another protest, the DRA strongly denounced Iranian "assistance" in a 29 April attack by Afghan "counterrevolutionaries" on Qazi Deh village in which 12 Afghans were killed, 2 more wounded, and one captured, Kabul radio reported. The protest alleged that Iranian Revolutionary Guards "guided" the "counterrevolutionaries" with communications equipment. The DRA demanded the return of the captured Afghan and warned of the "dangerous consequences" of such acts and asserted that a repitition will force the DRA to "defend" itself.

Iran

IRNA reported that the bus driver and assistant of a double decker bus were killed 9 May when a bomb exploded underneath the vehicle in central Tehran, and blamed the munafiqeen "antirevolutionaries" for the act.

Qatar

A brother of the amir, Shaykh Nasir ibn Hamad Al Thani, was admitted to a London hospital "apparently" suffering from a "serious gunshot wound," according to London PRESS ASSOCIATION. Qatari sources have not been observed to report this.

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Iran's Role in Border Attack Protested

LD081845 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Afghan counterrevolutionaries, deploying various weapons and with the assistance of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, launched an attack on the border militia of (Qazi) village [words indistinct] District on the night of 29 April.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard [words indistinct] guided the counterrevolutionaries with communications equipment. The attack resulted in 12 inhabitants of the village being martyred, 2 injured, and 1 abducted.

The DRA Government (?denounces) this action of the Iranian authorities whereby 12 of our innocent compatriots were martyred, 2 persons were injured, and 1 abducted. It is making a strong protest and demands the return of the captured Afghan national. It asks the relevant Iranian authorities to discover who were the perpetrators of this cruel aggression and killing, and to punish them. It calls for an end to such adventurist and inhumane actions which are contrary to all accepted international norms and standards, goodneighborly relations, and the principles of human dignity.

In conclusion the DRA reserves the right to demand compensation for all damage inflicted as a result of these aggressive actions.

In this connection it announces that in the event of a repetition of aggression [words indistinct], the DRA will be obliged to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and safeguard the rights of its subjects [words indistinct]. Under these circumstances the dangerous consequences stemming from this will rest on the respective government of this embassy. [as heard]

Pakistani Claims of Border Violations Rejected

LD081737 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The Pakistani charge d' Affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today at 1200 and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Section: In order to divert the attention of its people from the disturbing situation in Pakistan, the government of that country has alleged that the DRA Armed Forces violated the (Laka Tega) area, Khurram Agency on 27 April, 1986, as well as the Tor Khan border post; on 28 April, the (Chah-e Amu) area and the Sardam and Baregah villages, Bajaur Agency; on 29 April once again the (Laka Tega) area, Khurram Agency and the Nawa (Dara) Kalay, Mohmand Agency; on 3 May, Nawa Khola, Mohmand Agency and the Ali Mangal border post, Khurram agency.

After all-round investigations, the DRA regards these allegations as groundless and far from the truth and resolutely rejects them. It adds that the Pakistani authorities should stop these kind of allegations, which result in nothing but an aggravation of the situation on the borders.

Najibullah, Karmal Address PDPA Politburo Session

LD081642 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 8 May (BAKHTAR) — A regular PDPA Central Committee Politburo session was held this morning. The session assessed the work of the Prosecutor's Office concerning the observation of revolutionary legality, the strengthening of struggle against abuses, bribery, embezzlement and other negative manifestations.

It was stated in the session that the DRA Prosecutor's Office is rendering a certain amount of work toward the defense of the interests of the state and the people, the cessation of attempts to abuse public cooperative and private property, the purification of society from the existence of criminal elements, and the consolidation of revolutionary legality. However, the Politburo states that serious defects exist in the work of the Prosecutor's Office and its work is sometimes not in accordance with the demands of revolution and the decisions of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Struggle toward discovering and prevention of crimes -- particularly crimes against the economy of the country -- the state's defense capability, abuses, and deviation from laws is being carried out weakly. Evidence exists that large dossiers on the embezzlement of millions of afghanis from the public domain remain have gone unattended and without timely assessment for several years. A few years ago, criminals who stole even a few sers [a ser equals 7 kilograms] were handed over to the law, whereas persons who have embezzled millions of afghanis from state and public property accounts have not been brought under investigation.

The Politburo has entrusted the Attorney General's Department and the Prosecutor's Offices with the duty of raising the level of discipline and feeling of responsibility of their staff to supervise the implementation of revolutionary legality, and to adopt fundamental principles in the appointment of individuals to the prosecutor's offices. The appointment of cadres should be based on their political worthiness, loyalty, abstinence, humility and their professional and practical readiness. Active supervision of the observance of laws in the state economic, cooperative and private sectors should be maintained and the level of discipline and investigations enhanced.

The Politburo commissioned the party Control Commission and the justice and defense section of the PDPA Central Committee, in cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office to investigate a number of matters concerning the method and state of supervision over the implementation of revolutionary legality. The results of the work of students and pupils brigades in the course of last year [ending 20 March 1986], and the adoption of measures toward their improved utilization in the construction and exploitation of national economic projects were appraised. It was pointed out that the DYOA Central Committee is carrying out good work [words indistinct] in the organization and the creation of brigades of students and pupils for fruitful productive work in national economic projects and in their participation in executing political work among the people during their vacation. The tasks rendered have yielded positive results and should become a matter of interest and support of the state, party and social organs. The enhancement of the productive and social activity of

youths is of great importance for the national economy and for patriotic training. Necessary and concise orders should be introduced in the work of the brigades.

The Politburo heard a report on the participation of Comrade Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and head of the PDPA delegation, in the 13th BCP Congress.

It was pointed out that the participation of the PDPA delegation in the work of the congress and the talks held in connection with the consolidation of relations between the parties, governments and peoples of the DRA and Bulgaria were fruitful and beneficial.

The work of the delegation was assessed as positive.

In the course of discussion on topics on the agenda, Comrades Babrak Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; Anahita Ratebzad, Politburo member and president of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of Afghanistan; Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Politburo member and DRA minister of communications; Muhammad Rafi, Politburo member and vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the Politburo and DRA minister of defense; Sulayman La'eq, candidate member of the Politburo and minister of nationalities and tribal affairs; Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of Kabul City Party Committee; Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the political affairs in the DRA Army; Mir Saheb Karwal and Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; and a number of other comrades addressed the session.

Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee comprehensively assessed the work of the meeting and spoke in detail concerning the further improvement of the practical realization of the aspirations of the April Revolution.

Najibullah Receives Congratulation Messages

Hungary's Kadar

LD081240 Budapest MTI in English 1136 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Budapest, May (MTI) — Janos Kadar, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, congratulated in a telegram Dr Najibollah on his election general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Cuba's Castro

LD072314 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] The following congratulatory telegram from F. Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, arrived in Kabul addressed to Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

Comrade Najib, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Kabul, Afghanistan: Please accept our congratulations on the occasion of your election as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

At this time we renew our solidarity with the revolution of Afghanistan in the struggle against imperialist intervention, which openly strengthens and supports the counterrevolutionaries and opposes every just solution through talks, which bring the gift of peace and respect for the sovereignty of your country.

I am fully confident that the existing fraternal relations between the two parties and our people will yet again develop further.

I wish you success in your duties in the leadership of party work.

[Signed] F. Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee of Cuba

Start of Ramadan Noted; Muslims Urged To Pray

LD090838 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 8, BAKHTAR: The Muslim and religious people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan hail the holy month of Ramadan which starts from 9 May 1986.

During the month Taraweh prayers and Korankhowani (Koran reading) will be held in all mosques in the capital and all provinces of the country.

With start of this month the office working hours will start from 7 am and will terminate at 1 pm in the afternoon. The total work hours per day will be six hours.

In a special statement issued on the occasion by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Trust Properties of the DRA it is hoped that the Afghans will perform this divine prayer with patience and Islamic character, performing it in with free and Islamic morality before Almighty God.

The statement further ask the countrymen to pray for the prosperity and well-being of all the people, our beloved country and for the consolidation of peace in the DRA and the world as a whole.

Reportage on National Parliamentary Elections

President 'Disgusted' With UK MP's

BK081628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 8 (AFP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad said his Jatiya Party would win about half the seats in Bangladesh's new parliament Thursday, as the opposition called for protests against alleged poll fraud.

Lieutenant General Ershad, speaking to several reporters at his army chief's residence here, said the opposition Awami League-led alliance would take about 80 seats. He declared the elections, held under martial law, a success.

If rigging had taken place at some stations, the election commission could order new polls in those places, he said, adding that voting had been suspended in 282 polling stations out of 23,284.

But Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed said: "We will start agitations and protests" against poll rigging. The Awami League, who head a 15-party alliance, said it disputed several cases were former government ministers had been returned with more than 90 per cent of the vote and others where rigging took place.

Sheikh Hasina has accused the Jatiya (National) Party of organising a "complete reign of terror" and killing 25 people and injuring 500 in widespread poll fraud.

The election commission issued revised figures for some seats giving in the unofficial count the Jatiya 81 seats, the Awami League Alliance 71, and independents 20. But after revising the count, no more results were announced and after more than three hours no explanation had yet to be given. Another 116 of the 300 seats still had to be announced.

Earlier Thursday an all-party British parliamentary group said that the Jatiya Party had been the main offenders in poll rigging. "They were responsible for turning what could and should have been an historic return to democracy in Bangladesh into a tragedy for democracy," the group's report said.

Former British Labour Party minister Lord Ennals and Conservative MP Martin Brandon-Branvo issued the damning document based on visits to 35 polling stations. They listed attacks on Awami League supporters, throwing of molotov cocktails, seizure of polling stations multiple voting, closure of polling centres and claims of 100 per cent turnout.

The two men went to polling stations in Dhaka, its surroundings and the Roazan constitutency some 32 kilometres (20 miles) north of the eastern port of Chittagong. They were invited to observe the elections by the only non-government watchdog body, the People's Commission for Free Elections. They were due to leave Thursday night.

Lt. Gen. Ershad, who said he had written a poem in praise of the election on polling day, said he was "disgusted" with the British parliamentarians. "We are not bothered by what they say." He would not give a date for the lifting of martial law — which all parties have called for. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) refused to participate in the elections because they were held under martial law.

Parliament would convene within a month of the official publication of the results, he said, but he would not say whether martial law would be lifted before or after presidential elections are held. The new parliament would have to adopt regulations passed under martial law, he said, because they had taken part in elections under martial [unfinished sentence as received]

President Ershad has been bitterly criticised by opposition leaders for not maintaining neutrality in the campaign. His pictures appeared on virtualy all Jatiya Party posters. Although he is not officially a member of the Jatiya Party, which was launched only this year, he said the new government would continue his policies, because they were the best for the country.

Nearly 48 million of the 100 million population of Bangladesh was called to vote. Gen. Ershad said he thought the turnout had been between 45 per cent and 50 percent, which he said was average in Bangladesh.

In the latest unofficial poll count, the Awami League had 53 seats, its allies 18 — five of them to the Communist Party. The fundamentalist Jami'at-e Islami had eight seats and the Moslem League three.

UK MP's on Election 'Tragedy'

BK080810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpt] Dhaka, May 8 (AFP) — The Bangladesh elections were a "tragedy for democracy" and the main offenders in violence and rigging were the government-backed party, a British parliamentary group report said here Thursday.

Former Labour Party minister Lord Ennals and Conservative Party MP Martin Brandon-Bravo found the elections were "neither free nor fair" in their report for the British all-parliamentary group on Bangladesh. The report was presented to a press conference here Thursday before the group's returns to Britain.

In a damning document based on visits to 35 polling stations, the group concluded: "The principle offenders in rigging the elections were the Jatiya Party (government-backed)."

"They were responsible for turning what could and should have been a historic return to democracy in Bangladesh into a tragedy for democracy," the report said.

The report listed attacks on opposition Awami League supporters, throwing of molotov cocktails, seizure of polling stations, multiple voting, closure of polling stations and claims of 100 percent voting.

The three men toured polling stations in Dhaka and its surrounds and the Roazan constituency 20 miles (32 kms) north of the eastern port of Chittagong.

The government has said 12 people died in poll violence and 284 polling centres suffered disturbances. Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed has said 25 people died and 500 were injured during the vote.

Announcement of Results Postponed

BK090327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] In Bangladesh the announcement of the election results was abruptly postponed late last night after the returns showed that the government-backed Jatiya Party was trailing in the latest counts.

Of 186 results declared out of 300, the Jatiya Party has bagged 81 seats, while the opposition party and the independents have secured 105 seats. The Awami League has secured 55 seats.

Meanwhile, the Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, renewed charges of massive rigging in the polls and demanded fresh elections in at least 50 constituencies. She has claimed a landslide victory in the elections.

Further Details on Postponement

BK090347 Hong Kong AFP in English 0330 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 9 (AFP) — The Bangladesh election count was postponed early Friday [9 May] with the government-backed Jatiya (National) Party on the lead, the election commission announced.

The Jatiya Party, which has the support of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, had polled 81 seats in an unofficial revised count and its rival Awami League, which heads a 15-party alliance, 71.

The commission announced the postponement of complete and partial results in 116 of the 300 constituencies until it knew how many constituencies would require fresh elections.

President Ershad, who held the vote under martial law on Wednesday, said Thursday night the Jatiya would win about half the seats and the Awami alliance about 80. Speaking to reporters at his army chief's residence here, he declared the elections a success, adding that voting had been suspended in 282 polling stations out of 23,984.

But Awami League Leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed said "we will start agitations and protests" against poll rigging.

The Awami League said it disputed several cases where former government ministers had been returned with more than 90 per cent of the vote and results in other polling stations where rigging allegedly took place.

Sheikh Hasina has accused the Jatiya Party of organising a "complete reign of terror" and killing 25 people and injuring 500 in widespread poll fraud.

An all-party British parliamentary group on Bangladesh published the findings of its two-man observer team on the elections here on Thursday. It said the Jatiya Party had been the main offenders in poll rigging and violence. "They were responsible for turning what could and should have been an historic return to democracy in Bangladesh into a tragedy for democracy," the report said.

Former British Labour Minister Lord Ennals and Conservative MP Martin Brandon-Bravo issued the damning document based on visits to 35 poling stations. They listed attacks an on Awami League supporters, throwing of molotov cocktails, seizure of polling stations, multiple voting, closure of polling stations and claims of 100 per cent turnout.

The two men went to polling stations in Dhaka and its surroundings and the Roazan constituency some 32 kilometres (20 miles) north of the eastern port of Chittagong. They were invited here by the only non-government watchdog body, the People's Commission for Free Elections.

Lieutenant General Ershad, who said he had composed a poem in praise of the elections, said he was "totally disgusted" with the British parliamentarians. He would not give a date for the lifting of martial law — which all parties have called for. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) refused to participate in the elections because it was held under martial law.

Lt. Gen. Ershad said the new parliament would convene within a month of the official publication of the election results, but would not clarify whether martial law would be lifted before or after presidential elections. There is no date for presidential elections either.

The new Jatiya government would continue the policies of the military regime, President Ershad said, they were the best for the country. The Jatiya Party was launched at the start of this year. He said the army should have a role in association with the new administration. But if parliament decided otherwise then so be it.

Nearly 48 million of the 100 million population of Bangladesh was called on to vote. Gen. Ershad said he thought the turnout had been between 45 per cent and 50 per cent, which he said was average in Bangladesh.

When the poll count was halted the Awami League had 53 seats, its allies 18 — five of them to the communist party. The fundamentalist Jami'at-e Islami had eight seats and the Moslem League three.

Unofficial Results Received

BK090612 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0500 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The Bangladesh Election Commission received as of 0800 this morning complete unofficial results from the returning officers of 293 centers. Out of that, unofficial final results of 184 centers have been announced.

Voting in some of the centers in nine areas was stopped due to some external reasons and thus it was not possible to announce the unofficial results of these centers. Only after getting the written reports of the returning officers of these areas will the commission take the necessary steps.

Also, the Election Commission has received partial reports from 50 centers. The complete results of these centers are expected to be announced by this evening.

Press Note on British Report

BK090722 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0500 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] In a press note issued last night, the Election Commission categorically stated that the commission set up in accordance with the Constitution has the authority to conduct and supervise the elections and no person or institution has any legal right to assume this authority. If anyone does, it will be considered as void and as an incursion into the jurisdiction of the commission.

Referring to the visit of three British nationals, the commission said that their acts amount to an interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. The press note said that the attention of the Election Commission was drawn to press interviews and reports made by the three British nationals, who are currently visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of a committee formed by the People's Commission to see the parliamentary election in the country.

The reports [words indistinct] troubles in some of the polling centers. Some tragic incidents took place during election day and some people were killed and property damaged. These incidents marred the peaceful atmosphere in some of the polling centers where elections had to be postponed. Except for these centers, elections were held peacefully in other parts of the country.

The press note said that the three foreign nationals had been invited by a commission set up by one of the 28 political parties taking part in the election. Naturally, questions have been raised about the impartiality of the commission as all their movements and activities are normally influenced by this party.

The press note said that these 3 foreign nationals had only visited 35 polling centers apparently selected by their party. There are 47 million voters and 23,000 polling centers throughout the country and, therefore, it is not correct to pass judgement or opinion about the whole country by visiting only a few centers.

The official results are yet to be published; even the announcement of unofficial results has not yet been completed. To reach a verdict about the fairness of the entire election at this stage is not only a hasty generalization but is also unfair.

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

Resigning Ministers Suspended From Party

BK080945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] In Punjab, the three ministers who resigned recently have been expelled by the Akali Dal president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, from the primary membership of the party for 6 years. They are: Mr Sukhjinder Singh, Mr Amrinder Singh, and Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur. According to a party spokesman, the action is being taken for their antiparty activities. These ministers had resigned last week in protest against the entry of police in the Golden Temple complex to flush out terrorists, antinationals and anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh] elements.

Akali Dal Party Splits

BK081611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The Akali Dal legislature party in Punjab has split. The party formally split today with the speaker of the assembly giving recognition to the 27-member separate group of the party. A notification issued by the assembly in Chandigarh said that these members sent a signed representation yesterday to the speaker for recognition as a separate group following a political split in the Shiromani Akali Dal. The notification said the speaker today verified the voluntary nature of the declaration from the members individually who had signed the representation. It said the speaker accorded the recognition after convincing himself of the authenticity of the representation.

The All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent reports that there were 73 members of the Shiromani Akali Dal in the legislative assembly. The Punjab cabinet held an informal meeting in Chandigarh this evening following the split in the Akali Dal legislature party. A resolution was passed seeking the removal of the speaker. It said the speaker has acted in a partisan manner. The resolution further added that a notice seeking the removal of the speaker is being given.

Reacting to the recognition given to split group, the chief minister, Mr Barnala, was of the view that the entire conspiracy, as he put it, was only to weaken the Shiromani Akali Dal and to destabilize the state government. Mr Barnala said the dissident legislators are only helping the extremists and anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh] forces through such actions. Describing the development as sad, the chief minister said the actual number of dissidents is not more than 18.

Earlier today, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala expelled three former Punjab ministers — Mr Amrinder Singh, Mr Sukhjinder Singh, and Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur — from the primary membership of the Akali Dal for 6 years. Reacting to the action, Mr Amrinder Singh and Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur said their expulsion form the Akali Dal is undemocratic and violative of the party's constitution.

Meanwhile in Amritsar, curfew around the Golden Temple was lifted this afternoon. It was imposed yesterday as a precautionary 9easure.

Bhagat Lauds U.S. Anti-Extremist Steps

BK081055 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The United States has informed India that it will take steps to deny extremists a base of operations in that country for actions against India. It said from January last year, a U.S. law makes it mandatory to have a license by any training camp before it gives training to foreign nationals in the use of arms.

The external affairs minister informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that the steps taken by the United States have helped in improving the climate for the development of India-U.S. relations.

Gandhi Postpones Mauritius Visit Until July

AB071240 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Port Louis, May 7 (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has postponed until July a visit he was to have begun next Monday to the Indian Ocean island state of Mauritius, it was announced here late Tuesday.

The statement said that the exact date for the visit would be announced jointly by both countries. An Indian delegation is already in Mauritius to prepare the visit.

'Moderate' Earthquake in Peshawar Recorded 8 May

BK080816 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] There was an earthquake of moderate intensity in Peshawar early this morning.

The epicenter of the earthquake was located in the Hindu Kush Mountains about 200 km north of Peshawar. The intensity of the quake was measured at 5 on the Richter Scale.

There is no report of any loss of life or property.

Pakistan People's Party: Sever Ties With U.S.

GF081248 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 1 May 86 p 5

[Text] Sahival — Young men of Pakistan are always ready to enlist in the Libyan army and go to war against the United States.

If the government does not review its relations with the United States then the Pakistani people will rise in support of the people of Libya and responsibility for the consequences will rest on the shoulders of the present regime.

These views were expressed in a press conference by Zakir Hussain Bral, president of the Noor Shah Pakistan People's Party. He appealed to the Islamic countries to immediately sever relations with the United States.

He added that it was the responsibility of the members of the National Assembly of Pakistan, the senate, and the provincial assemblies to call an emergency session and put pressure on the regime to sever relations and announce an economic boycott against the United States.

Soviet Ambassador Meets With Asghar Khan

GF081254 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 3 May 86 p 1

[Text] Abbotabad, 2 May — Abdul Rehman Vezirov, Soviet ambassador in Pakistan, today called on his excellency Asghar Khan, president of the Tehrik-i Istiqlal Party, at his residence and stayed there 2 hours. A number of national affairs were discussed at this meeting.

The former commander of the Pakistan Air Force, Air Marshal (Rtd) Nur Khan, also called on his excellency Asghar Khan at his residence today.

NEPAL

Man Dies Trying To Plant Bomb at Katmandu Airport

BK081418 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpt] Katmandu, May 8 (AFP) — A man died when a bomb he was trying to plant at Katmandu airport detonated in Nepal's third explosion Thursday aimed at scaring citizens away from polls Monday, a highly placed official source said.

The unidentified man was a member of an underground India-based militant organization led by Ram Raja Prasad Singh which opposes Nepal's partyless government system, the source said.

Two other powerful bombs set by suspected Nepalese opposed to Monday's election went off in the southern city of Birgunj early Thursday, an official source said. No injuries were reported.

SRI LANKA

Tamil Separatist Group Admits Killing Rival Leader

NC081943 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] New Delhi, May 8 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Tamil separatist group admitted Thursday it was responsible for the killing of a rival group's leader Tuesday, the PRESS TRUST of INDIA reported.

A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Madras said Sri Sabaratnam, chief of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), was killed in a gun battle between rival guerrillas at the TELO hideout in Kondavil village in northern Sri Lanka, PTI said.

A TELO spokesman meanwhile confirmed Mr. Sabaratnam's death but added that his group would not be disbanded and would continue its guerrilla campaign for a separate state in Sri Lanka's north and east, PTI said. It is the first admission by TELO that its leader is dead. In earlier statements, it had claimed Sabaratnam was alive and in hiding.

A.S. Balasingam, the official LTTE spokesman, was quoted by PTI as saying that Mr. Sabaratnam was killed when he refused to surrender. His second-in-command, Mohan, was wounded and captured by LTTE guerrillas, who released him later, PTI said. The TELO spokesman, however, denied that Mr. Mohan had been released, the agency said.

The two rival groups recently fought a five-day battle which ended last Saturday, leaving 150 guerrillas dead.

Death Toll in Colombo Blast Rises to 12

BK081200 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Twelve persons have died in the explosion at the CTO [Central Telegraph Office] building in Colombo yesterday. According to the additional secretary of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, S.G. Samarasinghe, 5 of the dead are now confirmed as employees; 60 of the injured are now warded at the Colombo General Hospital. The ministry activities in all branches are being conducted as usual and reports indicate a satisfactory level of attendance. A total of 114 persons were injured by the bomb blast. Of these, 56 received OPD [Out Patient Department] treatment. Last night, the condition of about 20 persons was reported to be serious. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion that rocked the CTO building yesterday.

The government believes that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] was responsible for it. The same group was responsible for Saturday's [3 May] blast which destroyed an Air Lanka Tristar at the Katunayake airport. These attacks indicate that the LTTE is no longer interested in a peaceful settlement to the ethnic problem. LTTE leaders like Valupillai Prabhakaran and Anthony Balasingham are based in Tamil Nadu.

The government also notes with concern the leader of the TULF, A. Amirthalingam's, statement to a Swedish newspaper journalist a few hours after the Air Lanka disaster where he said this is only the beginning of an offensive and that more bomb blasts (?are) to be expected. This proves that Mr Amirthalingam is aware of the terrorist plans to kill innocent civilians.

The Ministry of National Security in a statement regarding the wide publicity given by the foreign media to a telephone call received at the London office of ASSOCIATED PRESS claiming that the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] is responsible for the bomb blast at the CTO yesterday says that it may be a trick by Eelam terrorists to put the blame on a Sinhalese extremist group. It further states that the government is also aware that even state-owned media of some countries have given much publicity to this telephone call.

The government has reiterated that it believes that the CTO bomb was planted by terrorists who seem to be determined to [words indistinct] any negotiated settlement to the ethnic problem. Following the Air Lanka and the CTO bomb blast, Eelam supporters in the Western world are losing sympathy that they hitherto enjoyed as the true face of Eelam terrorism is beginning to appear very vividly. In the circumstances, it is quite understandable that Eelam activists are trying various ruses to evade responsibility for spilling the blood of innocent civilians.

The Colombo international airport at Katunayake has been declared a prohibited area under the emergency and only passengers incoming and outward and authorized persons will be allowed access to it. The competent authority, Colonel H.B. Vijaykon, said that these restrictions are necessary in the wake of Saturday's Tristar bombing.

'Terrorists' Attack Village; Kill 4 Muslims

BK071143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Reports say that 4 Muslim villagers were killed and 10 others seriously wounded when a gang of about 40 terrorists went

berserk and attacked the village of Kinniya in Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka early yesterday morning.

The terrorists had set fire at the shops and houses and fired mortars on the village. This is the first time that mortar was used by the terrorists to attack a village. About 40 houses and shops were destroyed. Residents fled the village in fear and sought refuge in other areas.

The attack is said to be a reprisal by the terrorists following the arrest of two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] members by Muslim Home Guards from Kinniya on Sunday [4 May]. Two terrorists have later committed suicide.

Over 2.8 Billion Rupees Approved for Defense
BK081152 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Parliament today approved five supplementary estimates for defense involving a sum of 2,855 million rupees. Speaking on the occasion, the member for Mahraragama, Dinesh Gunewardene, called on the government for the proper utilization of this money.

The MP for Medawachchiya, Maithripala Senanayake, said that the people of Taminakulna, affected by terrorist actions, have been resettled in their former places of residence with the assistance of the army and urged the government to provde them with road and housing facilities.

The MP for Attanagalla, Lakshma Jayakody, said that it was important to take measures to protect the country and added that they were not against the allocation of these funds for defense purposes. Mr Jayakody wanted to know whether a proposal has been made to India regarding the terrorist bases in south India and on joint naval patrol.

In his reply, the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that Sri Lanka had on several occasions proposed the establishment of joint naval patrol activities to India. However, the Indian Government has so far not responded to these proposals. Mr Athulathmudali also disclosed that the government had informed in writing about the presence of terrorist camps, and also foreign media personnel have highlighted the presence of these camps in Indian territory. But the Indian Government does not seem to be taking action to dismantle the camps.

SUN Comments on Indian Plan To Solve Ethnic Issue
BK081458 Colombo SUN in English 2 May 86 p 1, 5

[Text] India has an "alternative plan" on hand to resolve the Sri Lankan conflict in case the on-going round of talks in Colombo between Indian and Sri Lankan negotiators fails it is reported from Madras.

A leading Tamil Nadu Cabinet Minister has gone on record as stating that if these talks failed the Indian government, in consultation with the Tamil Nadu government would implement the plan they had already agreed on.

No further details were revealed of this "alternative plan," however.

A public announcement to this effect was made from Coimbatore in the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister, S. Ramachandran, and subsequently reported in the pro-MGR Government newspaper, *NEWS TODAY*.

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister, S. Ramachandran has been deputised for the state's ruling Chief Minister, M.G. Ramachandran, in his government's dealings on what they refer to as the "Sri Lanka Tamil issue."

The Minister has referred to the current visit of India's Union Minister of State P. Chidambaram to Colombo along with Romesh Bhandari and two Indian Government officials, and added that India has an alternative plan on hand if these talks fail.

Minister Ramachandran who has represented the Tamil Nadu Government on behalf of Sri Lanka Tamil militant organisations at New Delhi and the United Nations, was speaking at a function organised by the government.

He criticised Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali for saying that if his (Sri Lanka) government's latest proposals were not accepted by Tamil militants, they would be dealt with militarily.

"India will not allow the Tamils to be mercilessly slaughtered by the Sri Lankan security forces." Minister Ramachandran is reported to have said.

This was the first disclosure by a senior Tamil Nadu Cabinet Minister that the Indian along the narrow Palk Straits Central Government already had agreed on a plan with the Tamil Nadu State Government on Sri Lanka. [sentence as published]

It followed a statement made a fortnight ago by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister in the Legislative Assembly that New Delhi had ordered Indian warships and fighter planes to be stationed which divide Sri Lanka and India.

A Sri Lanka Government spokesman yesterday called these statements "provocative" and said they attempted to instill fear in Sri Lanka by hinting of an invasion plan.

President Warns Iraq Against Bombing Cities

LD081805 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday warned that if the Baghdad regime resumed "the war of cities, we will inflict such a severe blow on it that the world could also hear it." He stressed that the Islamic Republic would not leave Iraqi aggressions on Iran's industrial and economic centers unanswered.

Iraqi planes Wednesday bombed an oil installation in southern Tehran damaging it slightly. Five people were martyred and a number of others wounded in this attack. Residential areas in a number of other western Iranian cities were also attacked over the past week as a result of which scores of civilian casualties were inflicted.

"We openly declare today that we will not tolerate these (Iraqi) vicious acts and will inflict such a blow on the Baghdad regime to make it sorry for starting and entering this fire game," said President Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, in a gathering of tribal volunteer forces before their departure to the war fronts.

Civilian Attacks Condemned During Friday Prayers

LD091120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] On the occasion of the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan, the politico-ideological sermons of the Friday prayers were delivered today in most of the centers of the country. The inhabitants of Tehran too, attended the Friday prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani, and were present inside Tehran University and its surrounding thoroughfares. The Tehran Friday prayers ceremonies were also attended by more than five divisions of tribesmen from the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and hundreds of students of the Islamic Open University, who departed for the battlefronts of war at the close of the prayer ceremonies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani in today's sermons, referring to the latest desperate movements of the Iraqi regime, stated that from the point of view of international law, war has always been confined to battlefronts, and the defenseless inhabitants of cities have been protected from enemy attack. But the Iraqi regime in the past few days has attacked some residential areas. We have an explanation for this desperate move: The aggressor Iraqi regime cannot sustain its resistance on the battlefronts and is being defeated and, in order to boost the morale of its troops, it has embarked on such moves.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani, warning international organizations and world powers, stated: Do not support the Iraqi regime through organizing your sessions, because such action on your part and support for the Iraqi regime emboldens that criminal further and makes the region all the more insecure. It is incumbent on all Muslims, especially during this blessed month of Ramadan, to support the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Further Details

GF091356 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 May 86

[Friday Arabic sermon delivered by Emami-Kashani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim, at Tehran University on 9 May — recorded]

[Excerpt] Muslims: The aggressive Iraqi regime has imposed an unjust war against us. Although condemnation of the aggression and the aggressor is among the primary duties of the Islamic countries, we have noticed, regrettably, that some of these countries have supported Iraq in its aggressions. I do not know where the Muslim and human conscience has gone. Such behavior and statements hostile to Islamic Iran have caused Saddam's regime in Iraq to become more and more daring. Recently it carried out brutal air raids against Iranian cities and populated areas in order to cover up its defeats on the warfronts and its feebleness in the field of right, and in order to mislead world public opinion by alleging that it has destroyed military and industrial installations. In reality its attacks are carried out against cities and secure areas.

We have repeatedly stated that such crimes will lead to the enhancement of the degree of steadfastness and right among our Muslim people. We announce to the Muslim world that this unjust war was imposed on us, and we fight in accordance with our divine duty, and will continue to fight until the criminal aggressor is toppled. We announce our regret when we have to respond in like fashion to such crimes. However, if the ruling bloodthirsty regime in Iraq persists in perpetrating these crimes, and if the Islamic Republic feels that the war has been transferred from the warfronts to the cities and populated areas, our response will be decisive and firm.

O sons of the Islamic nation, warn some of the rulers of the Islamic countries against persisting in their continuous and open support for this bloodthirsty criminal. Perform your divine duty in this blessed month, the month of worship and piety. Today the Islamic Republic's feast is the greatest duty and worship, because this is considered a defense of Islam, right, justice, peace, and security [sentence as heard] Know that any support for the atheistic Iraqi regime will be deemed support for disbelief, arrogance, and injustice. There is no strength except through Almighty God.

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I take refuge in God from the evil one. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "By the token of time, verily man is in loss, except such as have faith, and do righteous deeds, and join together in the mutual teaching of truth and of patience and constancy". [Koranic verse]

Two Killed in Central Tehran Bomb Explosion

LD091114 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — A bomb planted by Munafiqeen [Mojahedin-e Khalq] anti-revolutionaries underneath a double-decker bus exploded in a main street in Central Tehran Friday

morning martyring the driver and his assistant, who were the only ones in the bus.

The explosives said to be 8 pounds of TNT were placed underneath a seat in the first row of the public bus which went off at 11:00 hours local time (07:30 GMT) in front of the "Daneshju" (student) park on Enqelab (Revolution) Ave.

There were no communters on the bus at time of the explosion which severely damaged the bus.

The explosion work of the Munafiqeen counterrevolutionaries, martyred the driver immediately and his assistant was martyred on the way to hospital.

Foreign Minister Receives Lebanese Muslims
LD081750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The League of Lebanese Muslims delegation met today with Foreign Minister Velayati. At this meeting Mr Velayati discussed the Islamic revolution movement which has injected new life into the body politic of the nations of the Third World and of Islamic countries. He also spoke of the great role played by the clergy in the leadership of the Islamic revolution and stated:

In Lebanon, considering the Islamic nature of the people and the resistence movement of the people, it is only natural that the ulema should be the vanguards of this movement; and our enemies are very fearful of these activities and by means of various plots they are trying to weaken the unity and solidarity of this resistance.

Mr Velayati added: One of the ways to defeat the Islamic revolution is to create factionalism and strife among Muslims, both Sunnis and Shi'ites. The real objective of the enemies is to cause these two communities to confront each other.

Thus all struggles should be based and built upon fraternal and sincere unity, and, God be praised, the League of Lebanese Muslim Ulema has made some advances in this direction and has been successful in establishing unity, up to now.

Then one of the Sunni ulema of the League of Lebanese Muslim Ulema reported on the latest developments in Lebanon and stated: Even though we are far from Iranian territory, from a geographical standpoint, our heart always beats for the sake of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if we have now come here it is because we will be taking back to Lebanon with us the cherished gifts of spiritual values and steadfastness, self-sacrifice and martyrdom from this blessed country, and transfer these to our own people. And in truth, we, in the league of the ulema, will try to establish real unity between Sunni and Shi'ite brothers, and we take pride in offering this blessed movement as a practical experience to the rest of the Muslim brothers from one end of the Islamic world to the other. And all this is due to the blessings of the victory of Islam and to its illustrious leader, Imam Khomeyni.

Musavi Chairs Meeting on Nationals Abroad
LD081049 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — The political Council of the cabinet ministers in a session here Thursday morning presided over by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi discussed issue of the Iranians abroad. Prime Minister Musavi referring to conditions of certain Iranians abroad said that although these belonged to a different political and ideological category, yet the government could not shirk its responsibility towards its citizens.

The Islamic principles call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider the situation of these people so that those with no criminal records and those who are not dangerous to peace and security of the people could be able to return if they wished so, he told the session. Also conditions be provided for those who do not wish to return to Iran to keep their ties with the Iranian culture aad the country, said the prime minister.

He further told the session that deviated elements inside the country who have turned the west into their utopia should take lessons from the fate of certain Iranians in alien countries who are suffering from humiliation.

During the session Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ershad-e Eslami [Islamic Guidanc], and Information were assigned to investigate the issue and present solutions to the council in this respect.

Reports on Bush, Saddam Meeting in Dhahran Cited
GF091050 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The weekly *AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI* [Islamic action] has reported that an Iraqi delegation that included Saddam personally met with U.S. Vice President George Bush during his recent tour of the region. Arab media have referred to the meeting which has not been confirmed by officials.

AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI says that Arab newspapers have revealed that a meeting took place between an Iraqi delegation and George Bush during the latter's visit to Saudi Arabia [5-7 April]. However, because Saddam personally attended the meeting, Saudi officials have denied that such a meeting took place.

AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI says that the Iraqi delegation, led by Saddam, arrived at Dhahran military airport in Saudi Arabia aboard a private military aircraft, and that Saddam met twice with George Bush and briefed him on the latest developments in the war with Iran. *AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI* adds that the first meeting between Saddam and Bush was a private one, while the second meeting was attended by Fahd, the shah of Saudi Arabia. Arab sources say that the Saudi people view the city of Dhahran and most of its inhabitants as American.

During Bush's recent visit to Saudi Arabia the Saudi security forces cordoned off Dhahran and prevented ordinary Arabs from entering the city.

Customs Chief on Facilities for Non-Oil Items

GF020838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] According to IRNA, the director-general of customs announced that to provide greater facilities to increase non-oil exports, non-oil items will be exported from customs posts throughout the country.

He added: To assist the residents of border and coastal areas in the southern parts of the country in exporting non-oil products, more customs offices will be opened in the Persian Gulf region and begin operation.

The director-general of the country's customs said: To increase the awareness of the inhabitants of the border areas concerning import and export regulations and facilities that exist, special ledgers will be issued and distributed to vendors and cooperatives in the border areas.

Concerning the scale of the goods released from customs throughout the country over the past year, he said: In 1985, more than 17 million tons of goods were released from customs outlets of the country.

In the field of metallic and non-metallic minerals, Iran is the fifth richest country in the field of minerals and proper facilities for the extraction of the minerals should be provided.

In industry, only 51 percent of the country's larger factories were operational suring the past year and optimun use is not being made of the country's technical knowhow and expertise.

Possible sources of the country's entrepreneurial potential have remained untapped.

The report adds: The per capita income in industry is one-fifth of the per capita income in the services department, and the growth of investment in the industrial sector amounts to only one-third of the investment in the services department.

It is essential that compensatory measures be implemented in order to eliminate (?bottlenecks) in this department.

Karbala' Convoys Depart for War Fronts

LD082234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpts] Today, the fourth Karbala' marchers convoy and the second Labbayk ya Imam convoy, composed of four divisions of returning volunteers and new combat-technician units of Mazandaran Province, including clergymen, workers, employees, teachers, and other strata of the committed, Muslim people of this province, left from Chalus [northern Iran] for the warfronts.

Also, (?three) brigades of student volunteer combat-technician units, composed of students, pupils and worker Basij units from Kashan, left for the theaters of war amid glorious ceremonies.

Reportage of Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Two Iraqi Planes Shot Down

LD081724 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down by tactical operations of Iranian jet fighters and surface-to-air fire of Muslim combatants in the Val-Fajr 8 operational theater (in Iraq's Al-Faw peninsula) around Thursday noon, says Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters.

The joint army-IRGC headquarters said that the shooting down of these two Iraqi planes brought to 75, the number of Iraqi warplanes downed since the start of the Val-Fajr 8 offensive on 9 February.

The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced that another Iraqi plane was shot down over the Persian Gulf Thursday.

Combat HQ Reports Successes

LD091101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] According to a report recieved from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters the Islamic combatants, in the course of combat-patrol operations in the area of the southern Majnun Islands and the central Hawr-Hawizah region, while destroying three boats of the Zionist enemy, succeeded in destroying large numbers of the positions and fortifications of the Saddamist forces, either killing or wounding at least 100 troops. In the course of these operations a number of enemy troops were also captured by Islam's combatants.

Our combatants also severely crushed desperate enemy moves in the Sharhani and Pich-e Angizeh areas, and after destroying a number of enemy tanks, APC's and war materiel, inflicted heavy losses on the 805th, 44th and 442d infantry brigades of the 20th Iraqi Division. During these operations large numbers of enemy troops were either killed or wounded and their bodies are littering the operational theater.

The Army Aviation Force's pilots, too, carrying out a series of sorties, set ablaze and destroyed large numbers of the military hardware of the Zionist enemy, including tanks and APC's, and the pall of smoke arising from their burning hulks can be seen in the area.

Pakistan Paper Reports on Khomeyni's Illness

GF081349 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 May 86 p 1

[Text] Tehran, 4 May — Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, continues to be ill. He has shown no sign of recovery for the last 2 days. He does not accept solid food. It is said that when the state of health of 80-year-old leader Ayatollah Khomeyni became serious, his wife Khadijeh, three daughters Fatimeh, Farideh, and Sadeqeh, and his granddaughter Maryam were sitting close to his sick bed with eyes full of tears.

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MAY 1986

Syria

The Foreign Ministry informed the British ambassador 11 May of Syria's decision to "withdraw" three British diplomats from Syria in response to Britain's decision to "withdraw" three Syrian diplomats from London, Damascus radio reported. The radio said the Syrians were being expelled from London "without any objective justification" and despite the fact that the Syrian Embassy had agreed to allow the diplomats to be questioned by British police in the Syrian Embassy building as Syria is "firmly convinced" that its diplomats are innocent of charges against them. In a related commentary cited by SANA, *TISHRIN* viewed Britain's deportation of the three Syrian diplomats as part of a U.S.-led "campaign" against the Arab nation under the "pretext" of combating terrorism. The British Foreign Office, however, stated that the three Syrians had to be expelled because Syria's unwillingness to waive their diplomatic immunity would have prevented a full investigation of the charges against them, according to PRESS ASSOCIATION, which subsequently cited the Foreign Office's condemnation of Syria's "unjustified and regrettable" tit-for-tat expulsions from Damascus.

In Israel, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told the Cabinet 11 May that Israel will do everything in its power to prevent a war with Syria, but he said the world must do everything to put an end to Syria's involvement in international terrorism. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel has information that Syria's decision to perpetrate a terrorist act against an El Al plane was not made at a low level, but was "worked out and implemented under the responsibility of an authoritative Syrian body." However, Rabin stressed Israel's intention to prevent and deter any military confrontation with Syria, and *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported earlier that Israel has asked the United States to reassure the Syrians that Israel has no military intentions against them.

Nevertheless, a 10 May Damascus radio commentary warned of "current Israeli military preparations" near the Israeli-Syrian contact lines. As for Syria's military capability, the UAE paper *AL-ITTIHAD reported 12 May that the Soviet Union has* agreed to supply Syria with MiG-29 and MiG-31 aircraft, according to WAKH. President Hafiz al-Asad asked for MiG-31's during a "secret visit" to Moscow in February, the report said, and the Soviet Union had already agreed to deliver MiG-29's this year.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman reported 9 May on a "wide-scale" Iraqi offensive inside Iran in the East Mayaan sector that succeeded in capturing an approximately 100 square km area, according to INA, while an Iraqi military source told INA 10 May that an Iranian counterattack in the same area was repulsed. On the other hand, a military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that over 3,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded 9-10 May in the Faqqeh sector in a failed Iraqi offensive, claiming that over 200 Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers, and other vehicles were destroyed. Iranian air strikes over that sector were reported over the weekend by IRNA and Tehran radio.

In other action, at least 100 casualties were inflicted upon Iraqi forces in the southern Majnun Island and in Hawr al-Huwayzah, according to a 9 May military report cited by IRNA. On Iraq's part, a military source informed INA that the V Army Corps launched an offensive in the northern sector 10 May resulting in the capture of several traverses and vantage points, and "massive" Iranian losses.

As for Iraqi air activity, Iraqi military statements cited by INA announced fresh raids against Khark Island and a "large maritime target" in the Gulf 12 May. An 11 May communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported Iraqi air strikes on Iran's Agha Jari and Marun oil fields, while the 9 May communique claimed the destruction of 5 Iranian bridges and an Iranian command center. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA asserted that an Iraqi plane was downed over the Gulf 11 May, but an Iraqi military spokesman termed this claim "sheer lies" in a statement to INA the same day.

Libya

Relations With Spain — The Libyan People's Bureau in Madrid issued a communique 9 May denying the Spanish Government's accusations that the bureau's consul general has been in contact with an extreme right-wing Spanish officer, Madrid radio reported. The accusations against the Libyan diplomat, who was expelled from Spain, were viewed by the Bureau as part of the EEC's "aggressive" measures against Libya. However, a Spanish Government spokesman cited by the radio said the consul general was involved in activities carried out by a Spanish colonel aimed at "turning back the political clock" in Spain. The colonel, who is now under arrest, also visited Tripoli to seek financial help from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the spokesman said. However, the radio subsequently cited the Spanish foreign minister's view that the expelled consul general's involvement with the Spanish extreme rightists is "completely isolated" and that Spain's accusations are not levelled directly against the Libyan Government.

Political/Economic Situation — An 11 May JANA commentary strongly denied a recent report by the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD on the Libyan power structure. Noting the paper's* claim that the Revolution Command Council is likely to be expanded in accordance with an increase in the power of the military at the expense of the revolutionary committees, JANA maintained that such "false stories" are the result of the "sick imagination" of *AL-ITTIHAD*'s correspondent, who is one of those journalists who use their job as a "cover-up for their work for the CIA." As for the economic situation, a Libyan official stated during a visit to Tehran that the departure of U.S. oil

companies from Libya would have "no effect whatsoever" on Libyan oil operations, IRNA reported. In Kuwait, a senior Libyan oil official likewise maintained that Libya will have "no problem" if the U.S. companies pull out, KUNA noted.

Reaction to Al-Qadhdhafi Speech — Responding to the threats against Egypt contained in Col al-Qadhdhafi's 8 May speech, a 10 May Cairo radio commentary declared that Al-Qadhdhafi's "babble" will fail to disturb Egypt, which views his statements as "mere bluster." The Italian prime minister condemned Al-Qadhdhafi's "fanatical language" against Italy in remarks reported by Rome radio.

Lebanon

Extremist Islamic organizations have moved some of their foreign hostages to locations outside Ba'labakk, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed 11 May. Beirut's *AL-SAFIR* reported the previous day that sources close to Syria and Iran have spoken of an "imminent" solution to the hostages problem, adding that some sources have said an agreement has been reached over the French hostages, with only the implementation and timing still to be settled.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio announced that Halat Airport was again shelled from the north when President Amin al-Jumayyil returned from his trip to Tunisia 9 May. An Army Command statement warned of the consequences of such attacks, the radio noted, and former President Camille Sham'un again blamed the Syrians for the shelling. The other main Christian radio, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, reported that the Syrians have taken tough measures against the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli on account of the latter's alleged links with the Muslim Brotherhood. In a subsequent development, the Voice of Lebanon reported that a "catastrophe" was narrowly averted in East Beirut 12 May when a car-bomb was found and defused.

Jordanian-Egyptian Talks

King Husayn met with President Husni Mubarak in Aqaba 11 May for talks on bilateral relations and current international and regional issues, according to Amman television. After the two rounds of talks, Mubarak praised Husayn as a "brother," MENA noted, while the Jordanian king said the discussions had covered issues of concern to all Arabs.

Qatar-Bahrain

Qatari aircraft and naval vessels have violated Bahrain's airspace and waters in recent days, Manama's *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported 12 May, noting that these incidents came amid fresh reports that Qatar will shortly release the foreign workers it captured on Fasht al-Dibal island.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the southern political parties have reached an "acceptable formula" on their representation in the new government, according to an Al-Ummah National Party official cited by SUNA 10 May. Southern representation in the government will be in accordance with the size of the southern population as defined in the latest census, the agency noted in a related report on the agreement.

DRA

AFP reported a series of demonstrations in Kabul "last week" against PDPA General Secretary Najibullah, according to "diplomatic sources" in Islamabad. The sources, who admitted not all of the reports could be verified, said that student demonstrators chanted slogans against Najibullah and in favor of Revolutionary Council President Babrak Karmal. Nevertheless, both Najibullah and Karmal attended a function commemorating the Soviet Army's defeat of Germany in World War II, according to BAKHTAR.

As for the "counterrevolutionaries," 1,800 members of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami and the Nejat-e Mil-e bands "joined" the state in Faryab Province, Kabul radio reported, adding that 14 other members of the former band also "joined" the state security forces in Bagram District. In another report on rebel defections, the radio stated that 23 Enqelab-e Eslami members and 8 Hezb-e Eslami members recently "joined" the security forces in Farah Province. Kabul radio also reported that 42 rebels of Enqelab-e Eslami were captured in Balkh Province, according to a security forces source.

DRA-Pakistan

A spokesman of the Pakistani delegation at the talks with the DRA in Geneva reported 9 May on "marginal progress on certain minor issues," according to Karachi radio, but he claimed that Afghanistan's "approach" to the talks was neither positive nor flexible.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
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Further on Protest Lodged With Iran on Herat Attack

LD110645 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0447 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 10 BAKHTAR — With the help of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Afghan counter-revolution launched an attack on the frontier militia of Kazi Village of Kohsan District in Herat Province, bordering Iran. As a result of this attack 12 inhabitants of that village were martyred, two persons injured another one was taken prisoner.

The Government of the DRA has vehemently condemned this action of the Iranian side and asked them to immediately stop committing such acts which are totally contrary to the accepted international norms and good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

The Government of the DRA has also warned the Iranian authorities that in case of repetition of such encroachments it will be left with no other alternative except to defend its national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the rights of its people by use of force. The Iranian Government has also been asked to compensate the losses inflicted both in man and material by the attackers.

AFP Reports Anti-Najibullah Demonstrations

BK111656 Hong Kong AFP in English 1646 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 11 (AFP) — Kabul students held a series of demonstrations last week against the new Afghan Communist Party leader, Major-General Najibullah, diplomatic sources said here Sunday. According to the sources, who stressed that some reports could not be verified, there were four demonstrations at Kabul schools and colleges between May 4 and 8. They did not know the numbers involved.

Mr. Najibullah on May 4 took over as Afghan Communist Party general secretary from Babrak Karmal, who remains president.

At a demonstration on May 8 at Malalay Secondary School, police were said to have clashed with students after slogans were chanted against Mr. Najibullah and the Soviet Union and in favour of Mr. Karmal, the sources said. Guerrilla sources said they had reports of the anti-Najibullah and anti-Soviet demonstration on May 8. They said they were not involved in the demonstrations, which they attributed to rivalry in the pro-Soviet Afghan party between the Khalo and Parcham factions. Other sources said there had been a demonstration on May 5 at Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan.

Najibullah Addresses Tribal Chiefs 7 May

LD102219 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, met the chiefs and representatives of the independent tribes in the Store Palace yesterday at 0930. The 400 chiefs first presented Comrade Najibullah with bunches of flowers and congratulated him on his election as PDPA Central Committee general sedretary. The meeting began after Mowlawi Habibollah read a few verses from the Holy Koran. Comrade Najib, after welcoming the meeting's participants, said:

[Begin Najibullah recording] Esteemed chiefs, elders, and dear youth: May God's peace and blessing be upon you. As you are aware, an extended Central Committee session was held 4 May at which Comrade Babrak Karmal's proposal regarding his resignation from his duty as PDPA general secretary was discussed and considered in a free and democratic atmosphere. They [all nationalities] must have a part in the political sovereignty and government, and on that basis (?the issue of) broadening the Revolutionary Council was raised and 79 persons and representatives of various classes and strata, middle-class land owners, national entrepreneurs, national traders, industrial entrepreneurs, clergy, and ulema. This course and process will forge ahead further. It is possible for all classes and strata not to join our PDPA; they can unite with us in one front of struggle. [sentence as heard]

We believe that on this path, policy, and through jirgas and meetings, and as a result of political work, daily peace and security will be strengthened. This peace and security is increasingly being strengthened and our political and governmental sovereignty is also being broadened. You are aware that we are currently engaged in a war against imperialism, regional reaction, the Pakistani, militarists, Iranian reactionaries, and Chinese hegemonists. Approximately 64 percent of party comrades have taken arms and weapons in hand and engaged the enemy in battle. Our party is a combatant and fighting party and its duties are enormous. We must have an equipped and strong force in order to crush the counterrevolutionaries and to prevent tomorrow's aggression and intervention by Iran and Pakistan. [applause] [passage indistinct]

Our border should be firmly closed in such a way as to be open to our friends and closed to our enemies' aggression and intervention. [applause] Undoubtedly we can close our [borders] using the military border forces but as history and our fathers and ancestors traditions and customs have shown, we close the borders permanently with your bravery, by your efforts and honor and pride [words indistinct]. In addition to strengthening the border forces, we must work, with much respect and honor, with our powerful and proud tribal chiefs, elements, clans, and tribes. [applause] [Words indistinct] our armed, forces, border forces, your militia forces, and your other tribal assets — pride and honor — can close our border from this side and the other side before the enemy [words indistinct]. [applause]

As you can see, heavy duties lie before the party as well as before the government. As Comrade Karmal's health has not been good for a long time, and he himself proposed to be relieved from one post, and he continues his duty in the other post. [sentence as heard] You are, as our leaders, honored and respected elders. We have been brought up under your supervision. We have learned from you pride, courage, and bravery [words indistinct]. If one (?asks me) which line do I follow? [sentence as heard] We are following the same path which our party has followed for 21 years. [applause] We will follow this path and will accomplish our duties speedily [word indistinct] in accordance with the particular circumstances of the present time and conditions and will forge ahead. [applause]

Let us organize ourselves in accordance with the resolution of the independent tribes' jirga; bring unity in programs; form your tribal councils and elect leadership organs to these councils; form a united council with the leadership of every council [as heard]; make [word indistinct] people to stand behind these councils; invite to them ulema, clergy, and leaders of tribes; form a joint union so that we can hold a jirga there with our fugitives and inform them that the homeland is (?waiting) for them. [passage indistinct] Convene a jirga and send them back to their homeland, and for those really hostile to the homeland, our and your regions and soil, (?force) is a reply to them; you have rifles in your hands. [remainder of address indistinct] [end recording]

Assured of Tribes 'Firm Support'

LD102223 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 8, BAKHTAR — "We are moving forward for building a prosperous and prideful Afghanistan in which all the people would live in an atmosphere of sincere brotherhood." This was stated by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, addressing a meeting of free tribes elders here. Over 400 elders and representatives of twelve free tribes had participated at the meeting in which they extended on behalf of their tribes their heartfelt congratulations to Najibullah on his election to the post of the general secretary of the PDPA CC.

Dwelling on the consolidation of the people's sovereignty in the DRA, he added that in view of the 10-point theses and decision of the special session of revolutionary council all the stratas, ethnic groups, tribes and nationalities have taken part in the political power. Talking about the need for ensuring a nation-wide peace and order in the country, general secretary of the PDPA CC threw light about the normalisation of the situation in revolutionary Afghanistan and the gaining of ever-greater national prestige for the DRA.

He reiterated the need for the ever-further consolidation of unshakable Afghan-Soviet friendship as an internationalist principle and expressed gratitude for the all-sided assistance of the Soviet Union, a great friend of the Afghan people, to Afghanistan. He stressed that the borders of the DRA will always be open to friends and will be closed to the enemies.

General Secretary of the PDPA CC Najibullah called upon the tribes to be alert in defending the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRA. The party and state of the DRA, Comrade Najibullah said, are faced with grave tasks to achieve and the Pushtun nationality as a big brother should bear a high sense of responsibility alongside other brother nationalities — Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkmen, Baluchi, Nooristani and Pashai — for the fulfillment of these tasks.

Comrade Najibullah informed the audience about the proceedings of the 18th plenum of the PDPA CC held on May 4, in which the resignation of Comrade Babrak Karmal from the post of general secretary of the PDPA CC on health grounds was approved.

Later, a number of the heads and representatives of free tribes jirga on behalf of their tribes assured Comrade Najibullah of their firm support and pledged that they would fulfil their duties as a strong fortress with bravery toward their brother Afghanistan. At the conclusion, the speakers wished further successes for Comrade Najibullah in his new post as general secretary of the PDPA CC and health for Comrade Babrak Karmal.

Najibullah Speaks to Defense Ministry Meeting

LD111935 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, participated in a meeting this afternoon which assessed the operational and politico-combat education and training of the DRA Army. Comrade Najib was warmly welcomed by the DRA Armed Forces leadership at the DRA Defense Ministry. After inspecting the guard of honor, Comrade Najib went to the Defense Ministry conference hall where he was fervently welcomed by the commanders of the DRA Army units and their political heads, as well as other participants of the meeting.

The assessment meeting was held today at 0900 in the Defense Ministry conference hall. All political commanders and chiefs of the army units and companies attended. The meeting was opened with a short statement delivered by Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of defense.

There was then a speech by Major General Shah Nawaz Tanay, chief of general staff, who shed light on the state of combat work and activity. The head of the Army's Department of Education and Training and Major General Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, head of Army political affairs, spoke in turn about Army training and education and the enhancement of combat education and training; and political education and training of the units. Afterward, assistants to the minister of defense in technical and logistic affairs, and the commanders of ranks of the forces spoke on the improvement of work in strengthening combat capability and discipline. At the end of the meeting, Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad spoke in detail in the course of a comprehensive report about the strengthening of the forces' combat capability, the enhancement of efforts to realize the party aims and all the victories. The victories have been achieved in the defense of the values of the DRA state and the April revolution and in the strengthening of the peoples power. This is particularly true in Khowst district and its surrounding areas. Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad specified the Army's tasks toward maintain nation-wide peace and the construction of a new society in the country.

Finally, Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, assessed the meeting's work in a comprehensive address and spoke about strengthening the country's Armed Forces as well as strengthening discipline and supervision over the combat and political readiness of the Army. He drew the attention of the leadership and staff of the DRA Defense Ministry to their heavy tasks and asked all DRA Army Staff members, in strong belief in the final victory of the revolution, to utilize all

their energy in maintaining security and peaceful conditions in the country.

At the meeting's conclusion, Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad, on behalf of the army staff, assured Comrade Najib that the DRA Army, with all its ability, implements the demands of the Central Committee plenums.

Najibullah, Karmal Mark German WWII Defeat

LD101838 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 8, BAKHTAR — Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, Comrade Babrak Karmal, Politburo member and president of the Revolutionary Council and Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers participated at a function held on the 41st anniversary celebration of triumph over Hitlerite fascism at the headquarters of the Limited Contingents of the Soviet Union. Talking at the function, Babrak Karmal on behalf of the party, state and the people of the DRA expressed his gratitude on the timely assistance of the Soviet Armed Forces to the people of Afghanistan against the undeclared war of reaction and imperialism. The Afghan-Soviet friendship founded by Lenin the great will last for ever, said Babrak Karmal.

Najibullah Thanks Cuba's Castro for Greetings

LD110848 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] A message of thanks has been sent by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central committee, in reply to the congratulatory message from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, which arrived in Kabul on the occasion of Comrade Najibullah's election to the post of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

In the message, Comrade Najibullah expressed his and the PDPA Central Committee's profound gratitude for the comradely congratulations and friendly words of comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, and for his expression of solidarity with the Afghan revolution and people. He also expressed his gratitude for the support of Cuba's Communist Party and the Republic of Cuba for the struggle of the brave and liberated people of Afghanistan against reactionary forces and imperialism and for building a new and just society. He expressed full confidence that the existing good, friendly relations between the parties, states, and our people would continue its evolutionary path, in the interest of two countries and for the consolidation of a future universal peace.

Leaders Greet Czechslovakia on Independence Day

LD101120 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Kabul, may 8, BAKHTAR — Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee (CC) of the Democratic Party of Afghanistan, (PDPA) Babrak Karmal, Politburo member of the CC PDPA, president of the Revolutionary Council, and president of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the CC, PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA have sent to prague a congratulatory message addressed to the leaders of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslvoakia on the occasion of 41st independence anniversary of that country.

The message has expressed confidence that the people of Czechoslovakia under the leadership of Czechoslovak Communist Party as well as the creative and valuable guidelines of party 7th congress would achieve great successes in social, economic fields and making progressive society.

The message pointed out that fruitful and fraternal close cooperation between parties, governments and people of the two countries will further strengthen in the interests of the people of the two countries as well as peace and security all over the world.

PDPA Leadership Greets Balkh Armed Forces

LD112152 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpt] Good wishes from the party and state leadership, from Comrades Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Babrak Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; and Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, were conveyed by Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee today to the commanders and political staff of the 18th Division, the air force brigade, and the border forces of Balkh Province, which were warmly welcomed.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Mazar-e Sharif city that Nur Ahmad Nur took part in a joint meeting of the commanders and political heads of the 18th Division, the air force brigade, and the border forces of Balkh Province which was held this afternoon at the 18th division club of Balkh Province in support of the decisions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. In the course of explaining the historical importance of the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee plenums, Nur Ahmad Nur spoke in detail about the decisions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and said:

Our party, the PDPA, which organizes (?millions) of people in the construction of our revolutionary country, has the ability, under the leadership of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, to be transformed into a strong and unbreakable fortress.

At the end of his statement, Nur Ahmad Nur, expressed appreciation for the militant spirit of the men and officers of the 18th Division, the air force and the border forces of the Balkh province in defending the lofty aspirations of the April revolution and the crushing of the satanical nests of the counterrevolution, once again drew the attention of the participants to combat experience, to the observation of military discipline, to the expansion of the process of recruitment to the armed forces, and to the maintenance of nationwide peace in the country.

Gol Aqa Visits Herat Officials 10-11 May

LD112245 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Gol Aqa, vice-chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council participated in the meetings of Herat citizens, officials of the education and training department and in the meeting of the students of (?Sanayee) high school yesterday and today.

He spoke comprehensively on the decisions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and about the law of local organs of state power and administration.

Continuing Reportage on Anti-Rebel Operations

Forces Capture Arms, Camels

LD101032 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Citing a spokesman of the security forces in Qandahar Province, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that following successful operations by the provincial security forces against an arms convoy of the enemy belonging to the Gulbuddin Islamic band they captured 5? missiles with a launcher unit, 80 82-mm artillery shells, 100 shells for recoilless rifles, 40 antitank rockets, a large amount of ammunition and five camels.

Operations Against Balkh Rebels

LD111729 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Quoting a source in the country's security forces, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations carried out in the areas around Chemtal and Sholgara, Balkh Province, 42 armed counterrevolutionary elements belonging to the Eslami band were captured and a criminal leader of the Eslami band, Sofi Rahim, was annihilated during the course of the operations.

31 Rebels Defect, Weapons Seized

LD112046 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] A group of 23 persons previously members of the Harak-e Enqelab-e Eslami band and a group of 8 persons, formerly members of the Gulbuddin band, have recently joined the security forces in the village of Garki district of Bala Boluk, Farah Province taking advantage of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium's amnesty decree and the message and resolution of the Loya Jirga and High jirga for Tribes. In regretting their past, they promised to organize in the tribal battalions and to defend the outcome of the April revolution.

In further successful operations by the country's security forces in the villages of [name indistinct] of Lowgar Province, 38 Egyptian and Chinese-made rocket launchers and 420 shells of assorted weapons have been seized by the country's security forces.

1800 Rebels Defect

LD112131 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] In line with the joining of the deceived compatriots, who as a result of hostile propaganda from counterrevolutionary elements and their lack of awareness of the truth of the April revolution cooperated with the criminal rebel bands, recently 1800 previously armed members of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami and Nejat-e Mil-e bands including their leaders, Kamaluddin, Haji Abdul Rashid, and Mullah Azim joined the state in Faryab Province. They pledged to stand with self-sacrifice for the defense of the homeland and revolution and for ensuring peace by organizing into tribal units.

According to another report, 14 previously armed members of the Eslami band have joined the security forces in Bagram district by taking advantage of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium amnesty decree. By regretting their past, they promised all-around cooperation and sacrifice in the defense of the outcome of the April revolution.

Further Reportage, Comment on National Elections

President Thanks People

BK091618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said through the 7th May polls the people of the country have demonstrated unity and proved to the world that they want peace and discipline. Addressing a Juma [Friday prayer] congregation at the Babu Bazaar Mosque in Dhaka today, the president expressed his gratitude to Almighty Allah and thanked the people of the country for the successful holding of elections.

He said 10 crore people of the country can live in peace as taught by Islam. If we can maintain peace and discipline in all spheres of national life, we will surely march ahead to our cherished objective of building the country on a sound economic footing. He referred to the steps taken by his government for reflecting the ideals and values of Islam in all spheres of national life. The president said all his efforts are directed to improve the condition of the poor and distressed people.

100 Injured; Rigging Alleged

BK101313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the alleged rigging and widespread terrorism in Wednesday's parliamentary election has led to a wave resentment all over the country. For the last 2 days angry demonstrations, protest meetings and hartal [strike] have taken place in Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Bogra, Chandpur, Borisal and Chittagong Districts. Over 100 people are reported to have been injured in the different post election clashes between supporters of rival political parties.

The All India Radio Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that the major opposition parties have expressed their strong protest against malpractices in the election. Those parties which did not take part in the polls fearing rigging have demanded the elections to be declared void and holding of fresh elections under a neutral government.

Results From 264 Constituencies

BK111613 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpts] Complete unofficial results of 14 more constituencies have been received from the Election Commission. With these, the election commission has given complete unofficial results of 264 constituencies. The latest party position is: Jatiya Party, 132; Awami League, 70; Jami'at-i Islami, 10; independents, 27; Bangladesh Communist Party, 5; National Awami Party, 5; National Awami Party-Muzaffar, 2; Muslim League, 3; Bangladesh Workers Party, 2; Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League, 3; Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Shahjahan, 3; and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Rob, 2.

According to the commission, reelection will now be held in 218 polling centers of 36 constituencies. Arrangements are being made to complete reelection in these constituencies by the 19th of this month.

Delhi on Release of Khaleda Zia

BK110319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] In the Bangladesh parliamentary elections, the pro-government Jatiya Party has further improved its position with the declaration of 31 more results last night. It got 101 seats out of 215 the results of which have been declared so far. The results of 85 seats are yet to come in. The Awami League-led 8-party alliance has got 77 seats of which the Awami League tally is 59 seats. All India Radio Dhaka correspondent Prabahakar Mishra reports that it will take some time for the announcement of all the results because there will be repoll in some centers where voting was suspended last Wednesday [7 May] because of disturbances.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party Leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, has been released from house arrest. She was detained for a poll boycott call in violation of the martial law regulation banning anti-election activities. Begum Zia told newsmen after her release that she does not accept Wednesday's poll as valid and insisted on fresh election under a neutral government. The leader of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has called for a 6-hour general strike on next Wednesday [14 May] to protest against what she alleged, the election hijack by the government.

Further Details on Khaleda Zia

BK120601 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 12 (AFP) — Several leading figures in groups which had opposed Bangladesh's general election have been released from detention, official sources said here Monday. News of the releases came after the Election Commission had announced that the government Jatiya (National) Party was ahead in Wednesday's election, with 132 of the 300 seats according to official results, against 90 for the 15-party opposition alliance.

A seven-party opposition alliance led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Khaleda Zia had called for a boycott of the polls saying that they were a farce because they were taking place under martial law.

Five leading members of the seven-party alliance were released from Dhaka central jail late Sunday after having been held since April 30, official sources said here Monday. At least two local BNP leaders who were detained on the eve of Wednesday's poll were also released in the port city of Chittagong, press reports said Monday.

Begum Zia was also allowed to leave her home late Saturday after being placed under house arrest last Monday. But BNP

sources said that some of their leaders were still behind bars and faced charges for opposing the election.

The authorities had issued a martial law regulation banning all anti-election activities before the polls.

Mirza Golam Hafiz, a senior vice-chairman of the BNP and a former speaker of Parliament, who was one of the five anti-election leaders released Sunday, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he did not know how many opposition leaders were still in detention.

The 15-party alliance led by the Awami League party had agreed to take part in the polls after concessions were offered by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. But it joined an independent watchdog body and foreign observers in charging that the Jatiya Party was guilty of widespread poll rigging and violence to ensure victory. The independent watchdog body, the People's Commission, also accused the Election Commission of "deliberately ignoring the law and procedure of the election."

The Election Commission postponed counting for more than 40 hours on friday and subsequently began releasing results in blocks. It had announced that new polls would be held in 21 constituencies at polling centres where the elections had been "disturbed," but on Sunday the figure rose to 36.

The re-polling is due to be completed by next Monday.

Tribal Insurgents Attack Across Indian Border

BK110558 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 11 (AFP) — Tribal insurgents in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong hill tracts have killed a woman and kidnapped 30 people, press reports said here Sunday [11 May].

A woman was shot and killed and a man was injured when insurgents raided a village in Matiranga sub-district Saturday, *THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER* said quoting official sources in Chittagong. The members of the outlawed Shanti Bahini group had crossed the border from India, it quoted the officials as saying.

The tribal insurgents had also kidnapped 30 people, mostly schoolteachers and local leaders, in different areas of the hill tracts between last Sunday and Thursday, the report added.

The deputy commissioner (administrative chief) for the Khagrachari Region had sent a telegram to the district magistrate across the border in the Indian District of southern Tripura, demanding 200,000 U.S. dollars in compensation for an alleged "massacre" of people in several Bangladesh villages April 29 carried out by Shanti Bahini insurgents, press reports said.

Bangladesh alleges that the outlawed insurgents have been given sanctuary in the Indian state of Tripura.

Shanti Bahini insurgents have been active in the rugged jungle districts of the hill tracts since the early 1970's. They are demanding greater autonomy for their home region.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Special Envoy Arrives in Dhaka

BK120155 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] The special envoy of Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhdhafi has arrived in Dhaka on a 3-day visit. The envoy, Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-Ubaydi, a former prime minister of Libya, is leading 3-member delegation of his country. Mr al-Ubaydi is the secretary general of the Libyan Arab Solidarity [words indistinct].

Gandhi Reshuffles Cabinet 12 May

BK120600 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] New Delhi, May 12 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Monday carried out a government reshuffle including the appointment of a new foreign minister and a new interior minister, press reports said here.

Shiv Shankar, 57, replaced Bali Ram Bhagat as foreign minister and a Sikh, Buta Singh, took over as interior minister, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) and the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) said.

Mr. Gandhi also named about a dozen junior ministers in his fifth reshuffle since he succeeded his mother Indira Gandhi as premier after her assassination in October 1984.

Mr. Shankar has been trade minister since January and will continue to hold the trade porfolio as well as the Foreign Ministry post. A lawyer, he was minister for energy and oil under Mrs. Gandhi from 1980 to 1984.

The appointment of Mr. Singh as interior minister was seen by observers here as a new attempt by Mr. Gandhi to resolve the problem of Sikh militants waging a frequently bloody campaign for greater autonomy for the Sikh-dominated northern state of Penjab. Mr. Singh was previously agriculture minister.

The Interior Ministry has been held by Narasimha Rao since early this year.

The swearing-in of the new cabinet members, where full details of the reshuffle are expected to become clear, will take place later Monday, informed sources said here.

Further Details

BK120754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The union Council of Ministers has been expanded with the appointment of two cabinet ministers, nine ministers of state and one deputy minister. There has also been a reshuffle of portfolios. Mr Buta is the new home minister. Mr Shiv Shankar takes over external affairs with the additional charge of commerce. Mr B.R. Bhzgat has been dropped.

The new cabinet ministers are Mr G.S. Dhillon, former speaker of the Lok Sabha and Mr Mufti Mohammad Sayid, president of Jammu and Kashmir State Congress-I. Mr Dhillon gets the portfolio of agriculture and rural development and Mufti Mohammad Sayid tourism. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, who was looking after tourism, also will now have additional charge of food and civil supplies.

The new ministers of state and their portfolios are: Mr Eduardo Faleiro, external affairs; Mr Brahma Dutt, commerce; Mr Ramanand Yadav, rural development; Mrs Krishna Shahi, education and culture; Mr B.K. Ghadavi, expenditure; Mrs Sheila Dixit, parliamentary affairs; Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, tourism; Mr K.K. Tiwari, public enterprises in the Ministry of Industry; Miss Saroj Khaparde, health.

The portfolios of two ministers of state have been changed. Mrs Sushila Rohatagi will now be minister of state for power in the Ministry of Energy. Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad will be minister of state in the Home Ministry in charge of the Department of States. The new deputy minister is Mr Biren Singh Engti who will be attached to the Department of Personnel.

The new members of the Council of Ministers were sworn in at a ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] this morning. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the President Giani Zail Singh. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, attended the ceremony along with his cabinet colleagues.

Gandhi on Kashmir, Sri Lanka

BK120919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 May 86

[Excerpts] The union Council of Ministers has been expanded with the induction of two cabinet ministers, nine ministers of state, and one deputy minister. After the swearing in ceremony, newsmen asked Mr Gandhi about the demands for the dissolution of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly. He said there are 3 more years for the assembly's term to end. When a correspondent referred to the reported move by 33 members of legislative assembly of the state to resign, the prime minister replied that by-elections can be held in these constituencies. He, however, added that it is for the governor to make a recommendation.

About the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said there has been some progress after the Colombo visit of the Chidambaram delegation. Its reports is being studied. Mr gandhi was asked to comment on reports that the Sri Lankan president has asked the Western countries for arms and money to fight the Tamil militants. He said he has not seen the text of what Mr Jayewardene has said in his intervew to a British newspaper.

About his forthcoming visit to African countries, the prime minister said the objective was to know the people and the problems of these countries. During his visit he will reiterate India's support to the people of South Africa.

Gandhi Views Safety Standards in Nuclear Reactors

BK091359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said there is no scope for accidents in the nuclear power plants in the country because of the inbuilt safety features. Addressing the Consultative Committee of members of parliament of his ministry in New Delhi today, he said Indian nuclear reactors are being operated in accordance with internationally accepted safety standards. Allaying the fears of the members that a nuclear power station could explode like a bomb, the prime minister said this is a totally wrong perception since it is not physically possible for the fuel in a reactor to agglomerate in a manner that it could set off an uncontrolled nuclear chain reaction.

The members were informed that the total financial outlay of the nuclear power program is about 140,000 million rupees based on the 1983 price level. The members were informed that today the country's nuclear power program is earning between 1,500 and 2,000 million rupees a year from the sale of electricity. They were also told that availability of heavy water will not be a constraint on the nuclear power program. There are at present five heavy water plants in the country. Taking into account the profile for a 10,000 megawatt nuclear power program, three more heavy water plants are visualized. The first of these at Hazira is expected to be completed in 1991.

The members were also informed that the currently known uranium reserves of the country could support the pressurized heavy water reactor program of about 10,000 megawatt for a designed life of 30 years.

Gandhi Interviewed on Terrorism, Pakistan

NC100737 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has stressed tha Egyptian-Indian relations are now proceeding along the correct course. He said these relations must be strengthened in all fields, particularly the economic ones.

Asked about his views on how to confront international terrorism, the Indian leader said in an interview to be carried by *AL-AHRAM* tomorrow, Saturday, that the problem must be faced with a single, not a double standard. We should not sponsor and finance terrorism in one place and then complain of its presence in another. He stressed that terrorism must be dealt with through a unified stand and in an integrated form that will help develop a world-wide security system. He warned that the international community will face a disaster with unforeseeable consequences if the world is not safe from terrorism.

The Indian prime minister stressed that the real problem in the Middle East is to get at the roots of the crisis. He added that the problem will continue as long as Palestinian rights are not secured and a homeland not provided.

Speaking on the Gulf war, Rajiv Gandhi said it is difficult to predict when it will end. He pointed out that all mediation efforts to end the war have failed and that the two warring countries, Iran and Iraq, have not yet decided on their own to end it.

Assessing the positive aspects of the Nonaligned Movement, which India is currently chairing, Gandhi said that its role has grown but the most severe setback it has had to face was probably the failure of its attempts to resolve the Gulf war.

Regarding India's foreign policy, particularly toward the two great powers, Gandhi said that he is continuing to follow the policy laid down by his late mother, Indira Gandhi. He added that he has achieved more progress in his country's relations with the United States, though some problems have recently emerged as a result of the U.S. raid on Libya.

Referring to the violence in the Indian state of Punjab, Gandhi said that it is a rebellion by a group of extremist Sikhs who have no influence.

The Indian prime minister also spoke of his country's relations with Pakistan. He said that since he came to power in January 1985, relations have begun to get better. He noted that a plan to improve these relations was drawn up during the Pakistani president's visit to India last December. He expressed regret tnat Pakistan has chosen not to move with the same speed that it did when the plan was in the drafting stage. He added that India is completely willing if Pakistan wants to draw a time table for the plan or to slow it down for a while. He added that he postponed his scheduled visit to Pakistan because of the delay in the normalization of relations and hence the lack of a suitable atmosphere for the visit.

Talks on Siachen Glacier Proposed for Next Month

BK111350 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] India has proposed that the next round of talks with Pakistan on the Siachen Glacier will be held next month. Official sources today denied report that India had called off the talks. The first round of talks on the situation in Siachen Glacier was held in Islamabad in January.

Continuing Reportage on Unrest Incidents in Punjab

Security in Jammu Tightened

BK120334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Security arrangements in Jammu have been intensified in view of the increasing terrorist activities in Punjab. Intensive checking at the entry points at Lakhanpur and elsewhere in Jammu city has been introduced to avert infiltration. Security drop gates have been built at various strategic points for use in case of emergency.

Four extremists attacked a recruiting team of the Border Security Force near Pathankot on Saturday. Two of them were apprehended after an exchange of fire. One .32 bore revolver with three live cartidges was recovered from them. The interrogation is on.

Mixed Reaction to Akali Dal Split

BK100110 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The executive of the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee -- Sikh Temple Management Committee] met in Chandigarh today under the chairmanship of its president, Mr Kabul Singh, and passed a resolution stressing the need for unity in the Akali Dal.

The meeting condemned the attempt by some vested interests to divide the party. It also approved the action taken by the Akali

Dal president, Mr Barnala, in expelling from the primary membership of the party for 6 years the three ministers who had earlier resigned from the ministry. The meeting was attended by 10 out of the total 15 members.

The state finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh, has alleged that the aim in the formation of a separate group of the Akali Dal members in the state assembly is only to capture power through undemocratic means. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today he appealed to the dissident legislators to return to the folds of the parent body. He claimed that eight legislators out of the 27 whose names figure in the separate group recognized by the speaker had since met the chief minister, Mr Barnala, and extended full support to him. However, he refused to divulge their names.

The former chief of the SGPC, Mr G.S. Tohra, has extended full support to the separate group of Akali Dal legislators. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh he said there are some basic issues involved in the formation of the group and this cannot be called personal. Mr Tohra blamed Mr Barnala for undertaking the action in the Golden Temple complex without taking his cabinet colleagues or members of the party working committee into confidence.

Meanwhile, two suspected terrorists were arrested by the police in Moga today. Police sources said some arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession. Two persons, who were shot at by terrorists near Tarn Taran on 29th of last month, died in a hospital in Amritsar today.

Sikh Factions Clash Outside Temple

BK110844 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] In Punjab police burst tear gas shells to break up a clash between two groups outside the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar this morning. According to reports reaching Chandigarh, the clash took place between the supporters of rival Akali groups.

Barnala Resignation Sought

BK111603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said the call for the gherao [surround] Amritsar City given by the Akali Dal led by Mr Joginder Singh and a faction of the All India Sikh Students Federation today did not evoke any response. He said about 150 to 20 youths who collected at some entry points to the city dispersed voluntarily after some time.

Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this evening, he said his conscience is clear and he has committed no wrong by sending the police to flush terrorists, anti-national and anti-Panthic [Sikh] forces from the Golden Temple complex. Mr Barnala said the action has enabled [Akali Dal dissident leader] Mr Badal and other dissident leaders to visit the Golden Temple today. He said otherwise these leaders could not do so for months together.

The dissident Akali Dal leaders have sought the resignation of the Punjab chief minister and party president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, on moral grounds. Addressing a press conference in Amritsar soon after the visit to the Golden Temple, they ruled out any unconditional patchup with Mr Barnala. Those who spoke at the conference were the former chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal; the former Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] committee president, Mr G.S. Tohra, and the former ministers, Mr Sukhjinder Singh and Mr Amrinder Singh.

Opposition MP's Tour Punjab

BK111607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] A group of opposition members of parliament from various parts of the country visited some areas of Punjab — including Amritsar — during the last few days. Speaking to newsmen in Chandigarh, the leader of the group, Mr Chitta Basu, Forward Block, said the members did not find any communal tension or ill feeling between different communities anywhere in the state. He said the group visited mostly the places which recently witnessed terrorist activities. The people of these places said different communities have been living together for centuries and will continue to do so without any fear. Mr Basu said the group felt that an educative mass campaign should be launched in the state.

The members called on the Punjab chief minister today and suggested the formation of all party peace committees at different levels. The group, apart from Mr Chitta Basu, comprised Mr Surya Prasad, CPI; Mr Saifuddin Chaudhury, CPI-M; and Mr (Kishore Tidake), Revolutionary Socialist Party. Two other MP's, who are members of the group but were not present at the press conference, are Mr Indrajit Gupta and Mr Sarad Dev, Janata.

3 Killed in 'Terrorist' Shoot-Out

BK120355 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Three persons have been killed and many injured in the incidents of terrorist violence in Amritsar and Kapurthala Districts in Punjab since last evening. Two persons were killed and three injured when terrorists opened fire in the grain market at Navshahra Panwan. In another incident, one person was shot dead by some armed youths in a village to the raising of secessionist slogans by the culprits. At Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala one police constable was injured when two suspected terrorists fired at a police patrol party last night.

Curfew Imposed on Nasik City Following Violence

BK101557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1544 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] A message just received from our Bombay correspondent says curfew has been imposed on some parts of Nasik City from

sunset today till 0900 [0330 GMT] tomorrow following incidents of stone throwing, arson and looting.

Further Details

BK110338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] In Maharashtra 7 persons have been killed and 21 injured in Nasik City and 2 killed in Tanvel in Raigarh District following clashes between two groups of people since last evening. Stone throwing by some miscreants at a procession taken out earlier sparked off the trouble. The police had to resort to lathi [baton] charge, tear gas and finally to firing to disperse the violent mob.

Curfew has been clamped on some parts of Nasik City and Tanvel till 0930 this morning. The police control room told our Bombay correspondent that the situation is tense but under control.

'Pakistani Intruders' Shot at Border 9 May

BK101353 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Two intruders were shot dead by a BSF [Border Security Force] patrolling party when they tried to sneak into India from Pakistan in Anupgarh sector of Ganganagar District in Rajasthan yesterday. According to police sources, one of their associates escaped to Pakistan under the cover of darkness.

Bangladesh Agrees To Take Back Tribal Refugees

BK091619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Bangladesh has agreed to take back nearly 5,600 tribal refugees who are now in three refugee camps in Tripura. This was decided at a flag meeting of the commanders of the Bangladesh Rifles and the Border Security Force held at the (Jaloya) border.

Curfew on Karachi Areas 'Until Further Notice'

BK110730 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the deputy commissioner of Karachi West has imposed a curfew in four police station areas from midnight last night until further notice. The police station areas under curfew are: Gul Bahar, Orangi Town, Orangi Town Extension and Liaqat Abad.

KYODO: Further Details

OW120009 Tokyo KYODO in English 0001 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 11, KYODO — Civil authorities in Karachi have called in the Army after two days of street fighting following the death of a youth under a speeding bus. A curfew was imposed Saturday in the Gul Bahar, Orangi, Liaqat Abad and Orangi town extension areas.

Reports Sunday indicated that the rioting had taken on an ethnic tinge, with border-area Pathans fighting Biharis repatriated from Bangladesh.

Police also arrested a member of the National Assembly, Afaq Shahid, in Karachi early Sunday. He had been on a two-day hunger strike to press for the repatriation of nearly 300,000 Biharis still in Bangladesh.

Afaq and seven others went on the hunger strike after President General Ziaul Haq told a British newspaper that his government was willing to grant citizenship to three million Afghan refugees taking shelter in Pakistan.

'Marginal Progress' at Afghan Talks Reported

BK100533 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan now under way in Geneva was adjourned this evening for the weekend after achieving marginal progress on certain minor issues. A spokesman of the Pakistan delegation said after the meeting that some differences had been ironed out, but these pertained to very minor considerations. The two sides were still engaged in a study and examination of the revised draft of the fourth instrument of the proposed package settlement. Both Pakistan and the representatives of the Kabul regime had given their comments on the revised fourth instrument to the UN mediator, the secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, who was overseeing the talks. He said whereas Pakistan had given a comprehensive response to revised draft, the reaction of the Soviet-backed Afghan regime was coming in such slow bits that the overall progress of the negotiations had been (?affected by the negotiations) which were originally scheduled for 2 weeks have now been extended for another 7 days.

The Pakistan spokesman said that the sequence of the talks during the seventh round had been such that two sides will start discussion on more difficult elements of the revised draft from next week. The negotiations on the timeframe for a Soviet withdrawal, it is understood, would come only after the text of the fourth instrument had been broadly agreed to. The spokesman said that presently the talks were being held on the principle leading to a timeframe for the withdrawal of the foreign troops from Afghanistan and not on the timeframe itself which had been wrongly suggested by a section of the press. He said certain important articles of the revised fourth instrument remained to be negotiated during the next week and a timeframe for the withdrawal of the foreign troops could be reasonably expected only if there was an agreement on them. As such the negotiations during the next week were very crucial. He said Pakistan had shown a positive and flexible approach during the negotiations, but unfortunately the representatives of the Kabul regime had not been responding in the same manner.

Foreign Office Spokesman on Dates for Siachen Talks

BK111540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokeman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan is considering the new date for the second round of talks with India on the Siachen Glacier issue. The spokesman made this observation while commenting on a PTI report on the date for the second round of talks between the defense secretaries of the two countries.

He said the actual position is that in the 1st week of April India had proposed two dates — 16-20 April or 20-22 May — and Pakistan had accepted the second, that is 20-22 May. India has, however, requested a postponement of this round of talks and proposed new dates, which are being considered, the spokesman added.

Prime Minister Speaks on Elections, Parties

BK100445 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said that his government is fully committed to complete the mandate of serving the nation given to it by the masses in the last general elections which were totally free and fair. He was talking to editors of newspapers from all over the country in Rawalpindi yesterday. Under this mandate, the prime minister said, the government would complete its tenure up to 1990 to serve the people for which it has prepared a comprehensive program of socioeconomic progress.

When asked to comment on the demand of a leader of a political party to fix the date for fresh elections, the prime minister said he sees no reason for holding fresh elections. He said the people are with the present elected government. They participated in the elections so that their elected representatives and governments at the center and in the provinces would serve them with complete confidence and trust. He added that his government has outlined a clear program for the welfare of the people which it is determined to carry out during its tenure.

The prime minister said his government is not afraid of challenges from any quarter. Mere rallies and processions do not

prove the people's support for any party. The prime minister said his government has given full liberty to the political parties to go to the people to present their viewpoint. The press is also functioning freely. Each political party is openly presenting its own ideals and program, but they were not presenting any justification for holding fresh elections in the country. He added that these parties have nothing concrete to present to the people, nor do they have any issue which can form a basis for providing any excuses to the people.

The prime minister said his government believes in democracy, but there is a limit to everything. We cannot allow political activities at [words indistinct] of our government.

The prime minister said all political parties should realize that political institutions can develop only when everybody follows political rules and principles. He said everybody should adopt a positive and constructive attitude. Mohammad Khan Junejo said the current political independence in the country has also been commended in foreign countries.

The prime minister said comprehensive legislation will be formed to institutionalize the political parties' performance. He added that he has asked the Law Ministry to prepare legislation under which only those political parties that respect the law will be allowed to function and continue their political activities. However, at present all political parties, whether they are registered or not, are functioning without any restriction because this is a preliminary stage. On the occasion of the next general elections these parties performance will be institutionalized according to the law.

Answering a question about the formation of a party by members elected to the assemblies on a non-party basis, the prime minister said the parliamentary system cannot function without political parties. That is why the Muslim League has been formed, so that government and assembly tasks are coordinated. He said the Muslim League is being reconstructed and on the completion of this task, party elections will be held at all levels because successful implementation of his 5-point socioeconomic program mostly depends on a strong party whose roots are with the people.

The prime minister referred to the mass literacy program which forms part of his 5-point program and said 5 billion rupees collected from the (?lottery) surcharge would be utilized. A comprehensive program is being prepared in this connection which will be announced shortly.

About activities of bandits in various parts of Sind, the prime minister said the provincial government is taking effective steps in this connection and results will be seen in a few weeks.

The prime minister expressed his firm belief for the independence of the judiciary and said since the lifting of martial law it has full independence under the Constitution.

About the reduction of oil prices, the prime minister said Federal Finance Minister Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo has been asked to assess the situation and present a report on what concessions can be given to consumers in this connection.

The prime minister said the Federal Law Ministry has been told to prepare a draft amendment to Provision 499 of the Pakistan penal code. He added that if possible under the law this draft legislation will be presented during the next budget session of the National Assembly.

About normalization of relations with India, he said it was being given due consideration. He recounted steps taken in this connection and said Pakistan for its part is keen to improve relations with India.

The editors commended the civilian government's decision to give complete freedom to political parties which is unprecedented in Pakistan's history. They said so far healthy and positive results have been achieved and the government has given proof of its magnanimity by allowing the political parties to go to the people. They said this will help in laying a strong foundation for democracy.

The federal information minister, Chaudhury Shujat Hussain; the information secretary, and other high officials of the Information Ministry were also present on the occasion.

KYODO: Prime Minister Facing Disqualification

OW120842 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 12, KYODO — Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and a large number of his supporters in the national and provincial assemblies are facing possible disqualification for allegedly violating a law on political parties.

Chief election commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat was reported by the mass circulation newspaper *JUNG* Monday as saying that Junejo would be issued with a notice within a week to defend himself on a reference by two members of the assembly seeking his disqualification for breaching the Political Parties Act, 1985. The act bars members of the assembly elected on a nonparty basis from joining an unregistered party, and says they must give up their seat if they do so.

If the argument put forward by the two members of the National Assembly is upheld by the chief Election Commission, it could plunge Pakistan into a major constitutional crisis.

The two men, independent parliamentary group leader Haji Saifullah and member from Mianwali Sher Afghan, said in their disqualification resolution that Junejo and his supporters in the National Assembly revived the Pakistan Muslim League early this month, electing Junejo as its president, and only afterward sought its registration with the Election Commission.

Junejo, a veteran Muslim League member and agriculturist from Sind, was nominated prime minister in March last year by President General Ziaul Haq, after an election to the 237-member National Assembly in partyless polls. He revived political parties against the wishes of Gen. Zia, who has always mantained that there is no room for political parties in an Islamic society.

There have been sporadic reports during recent months about differences between Gen. Zia, who has ruled Pakistan for eight years, and Junejo, with whom he now shares power. Only last week Gen. Zia told a British newspaper that there was possibility of reimposing martial law, which he lifted in March 1985, if the political agitation by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto grows violent. Junejo publicly said the following day that there were no grounds for reimposing martial law, a position echoed by Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party.

The Election Commission Sunday issued a notice to Sind chief minister Ghaus Ali Shah and his 45 supporters on similar grounds. Shah, a retired judge, faces additional disqualification moves as government servants are required to complete two years of retirement before engaging in politics.

Nusrat was quoted by *JUNG* as saying that Junejo and the others involved would be required to furnish a reply within 10 days after the issue of the notice, otherwise the commission would take unilateral action.

The newspaper also reported in another story Monday that Gen. Zia held a lengthy meeting Sunday with former industries minister Elahi Bakhsh Soomro, an aspirant for the premiership. Details of the meeting were not avilable.

Reportage on Visit by Libyan Envoy Al-Ubaydi

Meets With Zia 9 May

BK091622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The former Libyan Foreign Minister, 'Abd al-Ati al-'Ubaydi, met with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today and apprised him of the developments in the Mediterranean Ocean region. The Pakistani foreign secretary and the Libyan ambassador to Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Meets With Junejo 10 May

BK101547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhdhafi's special emissary, 'Abd al-Ati al-Ubaydi, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today. He was with the prime minister for some time and apprised him of the current situation in the Mediterranean region. The special emissary thanked the prime minister for the support of the people and the Government of Pakistan against the use of power by the United States.

Thanks Pakistan for Support

BK100317 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Special emissary of Libyan leader Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, has said the government and people of Libya appreciate Pakistan's support for Libya against the American attack.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, he said Libya is grateful to Pakistan for supporting it in a time of crisis. He said he called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to deliver a message from President [as heard] Al-Qadhdhafi and thank Pakistan for its stand. He said he had come to consult with Pakistani brethren on the situation arising out of the American attack and explain the Libyan stand. He strongly denied that Libya is involved in any type of terrorism.

Continuing Reportage on Mujahidin Operations in DRA

Killings in Konduz

BK091027 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Soviet-Kabul troops early last month attacked various villages in Dasht-e Archi area of Konduz Province and started mass killing. Nearly 600 people, including 86 children and women, were reported killed. Their houses were destroyed and wheat crops and shops set on fire. At one place, the mujahidin put up resistance and damaged two tanks and an Army vehicle. They also shot down two planes in Zhawar area.

Refugee Camp Bombed

BK091716 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Nine Afghan refugees were killed when six Afghan aircraft bombed a refugee camp in Teri Mangal near Parachinar yesterday. A number of people were injured during the air raid.

Fighting in Provinces

BK110244 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say there had been fierce fighting between the Kabul forces and the mujahidin in the Lowgar valley south of Kabul. The Kabul forces are backed by the Soviet Union. The mujahidin are also reported to have attacked a military convoy at Tangay on the Kabul-Qandahar Highway. The mujahidin also damaged a tank and several vehicles. According to reports the Afghan mujahidin have also started ambushes in Ghazni, Qandahar, Kabul, Konarha, and Parvan Provinces.

'Heavy' Soviet-DRA Losses

BK120318 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Reports have come in about several clashes between mujahidin and Soviet-Kabul forces. Mujahidin inflicted heavy loss of life and property on Soviet-Kabul forces in their attack on two military posts in Herat Province. Twenty tanks were damaged in this attack. Another report says mujahidin attacked a

Soviet convoy going toward Herat City recently, killing at least 30 soldiers and damaging 6 tanks.

Yet another report says mujahidin shot down three fighter planes and damaged two in combat with Soviet-Kabul forces in the Zhawar seize in Paktia Province on 9 May. The pilots and crew of these planes were killed.

In another clash in Daman subdivision of Qandahar, more than 50 Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed, whereas 20 mujahidin were martyred.

Mujahidin Reportedly Down Bomber

BK1 20628 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin shot down a bomber of the Kabul administration that was about to carry out an air raid on their positions in Chamkani area in Paktia Province. Reports have also come in about continued fierce fighting between mujahidin and Soviet-Kabul forces near Kabul city. Another report says mujahidin inflicted heavy loss of life and property to Soviet-Kabul forces during a fight in Logar.

SRI LANKA

AFP: President Appeals to West for Arms

HK110334 Hong Kong AFP in English 0327 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] London, May 11 (AFP) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, in an interview published here Sunday, appealed urgently to the West for arms, money and moral support to fight the separatist Tamils, saying his country otherwise could end up "divided like Cyprus".

Cyprus has been divided between Greek and Tyrkish Cypriots for the past 11 years, with Turkish-Cypriots controlling the northern 40 per cent of the island state since an invasion by troops from Turkey.

Mr Jayewardene told *THE SUNDAY TIMES* newspaper that after recent terrorist attacks in Colombo, his patience was almost exhausted. On May 3, an Air Lanka jet was bombed at Colombo Airport, killing 17 people. Tamil militants campaigning for an independent state in the north and east were believed responsible for the blast, which tore apart the airliner.

"I have to have a quick solution to this problem now," Mr Jayewardene said. "I still have some optimism that the Tamil leaders will accept the proposals we have offered for a limited degree of federation for the northern eastern provinces, but I must warn everyone that if the proposals are rejected, then we will have no option but to go for a military solution."

The Sri Lankan president, who is 79, said he feared that after a few years of terrorism, his country could become "divided like Cyprus."

He called for aid from Western nations and urged them to pressure Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to end his alleged support for Tamil separatists.

Security Minister Asks For Increased Vigilance

BK101143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] The terrorists, who lack the stance for a direct confrontation with the Armed Forces, are now adopting a new strategy of exploding bombs in places frequented by the public.

Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali has, therefore, warned the people of the possibility of more terrorist attacks and called on them to be more vigilant. Addressing a meeting at Mihintela yesterday, Mr Athulathmudali appealed to the people to bring any suspicious looking object to the notice of the police.

Meanwhile, extra security precautions have been imposed at government and private buildings. Bomb disposal experts rushed to a building housing Air Lanka headquarters and other Government offices in Colombo yesterday and workers were evacuated following a telephone bomb threat, but no devices found.

LANKA PUWATH said that the government has sought the cooperation and assistance of the International Police Organization — Interpol — in the investigation of the bombing of the Air Lanka Tristar at Katukanyaka last Saturday.

Criticizes TULF Economic Campaign

BK111154 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Senior officials of the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] are now campaigning to weaken Sri Lanka's national economy without a heed to the consequences such action will bring upon the people of all communities. According to the minister of national security, the terrorists also wanted to create such a situation to continue with their campaign of terror.

A few hours after the bomb blast at the CTO [Central Telegraph Office] building in Colombo, which claimed 13 innocent lives, the president of the TULF, M. Sivasithamparam, had told in a television interview with ITV [Independent Television] Channel 4 that where they are concerned they have decided to go in their own way struggling to rewin their rights. He said that already the economy is in the doldrums. A similar statement was issued to a Swedish newspaper by the secretary general of the front, A. Amirthalingam, a few hours after the Air Lanka bomb blast at Katunayake on the 3d of May. Mr Amirthalingam is reported to have said among other things that tourists should not visit Sri Lanka and warned that there may be other bomb explosions. The ministry notes that it becomes obvious that the TULF, therefore, wants to paralyze the tourist industry and in effect damage the sources of foreign exchange earnings.

In a well-orchestrated campaign for Eelam, the terrorists, meanwhile, are placing bombs in the vital sections of transport and communication. The TULF and other Eelam campaigners who are also suggesting cuts in foreign aid seem blind to the fact that any reduction in foreign exchange earnings will go against the Sinhalese as well as the Tamils who are engaged in the various sectors of the economy. About 50 percent of Sri Lankan Tamils live outside the northern province and their livelihood also depends on the proper functioning of the economy.

The national security minister notes that it is a pity that the TULF leaders, terrorist leaders, and Eelam activities advocated and promote measures which affect the lives of so many Tamils living in Sri Lanka while they themselves lead a life of luxury outside the island.

Security Tightened 'Throughout Country'

BK111222 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that terrorism in Sri Lanka has entered a new phase and the people have to be more alert as the terrorists were now going on the rampage killing innocent people. Mr Thulathmudali said that the terrorists were now attempting to involve the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [Marxist Political Party] which in 1971

killed police officers and not innocent people like the terrorists do today.

Meanwhile, security throughout the country has been strengthened and the police are checking persons carrying parcels. The government ministries, departments, corporations, banks, hotels, and other merchantile firms have also tightened security. Some leading hotels in Colombo are using metal detectors to check on persons entering hotels.

TELO Group Confirms Death of Its Leader

BK091425 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, TELO, confirmed in Madras yesterday the death of its leader, Sri Sabaratnam, at the hands of another terrorist group — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE.

The PRESS TRUST of INDIA quoting TELO spokesman said that according to information received by his organization, Sabaratnam, aged 34, had been killed in an LTTE attack on his hideout at Kundagal near Jaffna on Tuesday. He said that the TELO group will not be subdued by the LTTE tactics.

Meanwhile, an agency report from Madras said that the office of the TELO terrorist organization has been destroyed by a gunman from the rival Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The agency quoted an eyewitness as saying that the LTTE raided the Madras office of TELO during a predawn attack yesterday.

The Madras police chief, Walter Dewaram, said that investigations are now underway into the attack on the TELO office.

Clashes Between Rival Tamil Groups Cited

BK121142 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Velupillai Prabhakaran, who runs the main Marxist-oriented separatist terrorist hit-squads in Sri Lanka which eliminated Sri Sabaratnam, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization leader a few days ago, has now turned his guns on Uma Maheshwaran, the leader of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam [PLOTE].

Reports indicate that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader is waging a ruthless campaign to become the undisputed terrorist leader in this country.

Intelligence sources told LANKA PUWATH that Prabhakaran's gang of LTTE terrorists attacked a PLOTE gang at Velvettiturai and Point Pedro in the north yesterday capturing seven members of PLOTE and their weapons. The fallen terrorists were carrying two rifles and a submachine gun.

The PLOTE gang of terrorists were in the process of distributing leaflets among the villagers when they were captured.

Further Reportage on Bombing of Air Lanka Plane

5 Tamils Arrested

BK101344 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (AFP) — Police have arrested five Tamils in connection with the bombing of an Air Lanka jetliner a week ago at Colombo Airport as the death toll from the blast rose to 17, officials said Saturday. Police Chief Cyril Herath said that some of the arrested worked in the Customs Department.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said the arrested would appear in court next week. They are expected to be indicted within two weeks, reliable sources said. Some have reportedly confessed to involvement in the bombing, but their exact roles were not disclosed.

Tamil militants campaigning for an independent state in the north and east are strongly believed to have been responsible for the blast which tore apart the Lockheed Tristar.

One of the passengers aboard the plane, which had been scheduled to fly to the Maldives, died Friday, bringing the toll from the explosion to 17, Air Lanka Chairman Rakkhita Wikramanayake said. She was identified as Hanna Mahmud, the new wife of the first secretary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission in Maldives who was expecting her first child.

The jetliner, which had arrived from London via Zurich and Dubai, was preparing to leave for the Maldives with tourists mainly from Europe and Japan when the bomb went off. It was believed to have been planted in cargo signed to the fictitious addressee in the Maldives. Investigators also found that the name listed as the sender was bogus.

Well-informed sources said that the police had yet to track down the masterminds of the bomb attack. They said that some now suspect it was a joint operation between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), two militant separatist groups. An intercepted radio conversation between an LTTE base in Madras, southern India, and one in the northern Sri Lanka capital of Jaffna suggested that it was the work of the local LTTE, the sources said. But they said that further analysis and another intercepted message suggested that it might have been planned by Thambapillai Maheswaran, an engineer who heads the TEA. The group said last year that it had poisoned Sri Lankan tea exports, but the claim was found to be false.

A world renowned expert on airline explosions, Eric Newton of Britain, arrived here Saturday to investigate the blast, sources said.

Meanwhile, a man was produced in court and remanded in connection with a bombing in the heart of Colombo on Wednesday which killed 12 people and wounded about 115 others in the government telecommunication complex. There was no indication what involvement the Sinhalese man might have had with the bombing, which is also believed to be the work of Tamil militants.

Further Details on Arrests

BK111225 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Police have arrested five persons in connection with the bombing of the Air Lanka jetliner 8 days ago in which 16 passengers and an airline steward died. Police chief Cyril Herath confirmed that five persons, all Tamils, have been taken into custody. He declined to disclose details because of the ongoing investigations. Well-informed sources told that some of the arrested are from the Customs Department, underscoring initial speculation that the bomb had been planted on board the Lockheed Tristar with inside assistance. The five now in detention will be produced in court this week. Some analysts also believe that the bombing operation was the work of two groups — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, and the Tamil Eelam Army, TEA. A subsequent message between Madras and a Jaffna LTTE base has buttressed this analysis that the TEA appeared to have planned and executed the operation with the knowledge and support of the LTTE. Panaguda Maheshwaran is an engineer by profession and it is strongly suspected that the style of the operation has his hallmark. It might be recalled that TEA last year threatened to poison Sri Lanka's tea exports forcing exporters to take several precautionary measures.

Meanwhile, the internationally renowned British expert of the airline explosion, Eric Newton, arrived in Colombo yesterday to investigate the Air Lanka Blast. He is expected to be here for a week to 10 days.

Tamil Reportedly Confesses

BK120445 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 12 May 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 12 (AFP) — A Tamil arrested in connection with the May 3 bombing of a jetliner at Colombo's International Airport which killed 17 people has allegedly confessed to planting the bomb, reliable sources said Monday.

The man, who worked for the Customs Department, is alleged to have planted the bomb in a cargo of tea consigned to the Maldives, the sources said. He is understood to have said he did it on behalf of the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), one of several militant groups campaigning for an independent state in the north and east of the country, the sources said. They declined to disclose his name or when he was arrested, but said he was one of five Tamil's arrested in connection with the blast. The five are expected to be produced in court this week, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said earlier.

Further Reportage on Bombing at Telegraph Office

LTTE Blamed

BK091426 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has termed the reported claim by an outlawed Sinhalese extremist group — Janata Vimukhthi Peramuna — of yesterday's blast at Colombo's Central Telegraph Office as a clever trick by Eelam terrorists. A communique from the National Security Ministry reiterated the government's belief that the blast was the handy work of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] who, the government claimed, is determined to impede any negotiated settlement to the ethnic problem.

Experts Rule Out Terrorism in Dam Disaster

BK091340 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Investigations into the Kantalai disaster have established that the gradual erosion of cement and lime masonry used in the construction of the dam caused the breach. The study was conducted by two British experts, Dr (Paulback), and (Derek Eunight), whose services were funded by the British Government. The report was handed over yesterday to the acting minister of land and land development, A.M.S. Adhikari.

According to the British experts, the Kantalai tank constructed by King [name indistinct] over 1,300 years ago is still sound in many aspects. However, they said the subsequent construction of a pump house in the vicinity of the sluice could have contributed to the breach of the dam. The reports says there is no evidence to link disaster at Kantalai to terrorist action. The experts were of the opinion that maintenance work had been undertaken in a proper manner.

SUN Publishes Proposals for Resolving Ethnic Issue

BK081506 Colombo SUN in English 3 May 86 p 1, 9

[By *SUN* political correspondent]

[Text] The Government has told India that it is prepared to make constitutional amendments to give effect to the union territories system of administration contained in the Constitution of India, but declared it would not agree to any constitutional amendment requiring approval by a referendum.

The Government's position is spelt out in an aide memoire Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed handed over to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi last month. This two-page document dated April 4, 1986 contains Sri Lanka's new proposals to end the Tamil ethnic conflict. It forms the basis on which a four-member Indian delegation headed by P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions, has been having three days of talks with Government and Opposition leaders.

Accompanying the two-page aide memoire is a six-page annexure quoting relevant provisions of the Sri Lanka Constitution and extracts from an Address to Parliament on February 9, 1983, by President J.R. Jayewardene. Here is the full text of the aide memoire:

The Sri Lanka Government has consistently been desirous of achieving a negotiated political settlement. The Sri Lanka government is prepared to re-examine the proposals contained in Annexure "C" and to adapt these in the light of recent suggestions regarding the suitability of a structure similar to the Union

Territories system of administration contained in the constitution of India. While being prepared to make constitutional amendments to give effect to such a system, the Sri Lankan Government would not agree to any constitutional amendment requiring approval by a referendum.

The provisions of the Draft Accord of August 1985 are substantially based upon the proposals containing in Annexure "C", except that the unit of devolution is designated as "Provincial Council" in the Draft Accord instead of "Regional Council" as in Annexure "C".

Two two subjects which are yet controversial are:
1. Internal law and order, and
2. Land.

In regard to internal law and order, the Sri Lanka Government is prepared to pursue discussions along the concept of autonomous provincial police stations within the organisation of the Sri Lanka Police Force as has been suggested to it in the informal discussions that took place in Colombo in January 1986. Notes of these discussions have been handed over to J. Dixit, Indian High Commisioner, and R. Bhandari by Bernard Tilakaratna.

In regard to the subject of land, the Sri Lanka Government draws attention to the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 11 of Annexure "C" and the provisions of the Draft Accord. The Sri Lanka Government is prepared to consider the subject of land as one which can satisfactority be dealt with by using the concept of a "Concurrent List" as in the constitution of India and other constitutions.

A greater degree of devolution can be provided in respect of schemes other than those designated as major or national schemes.

The Government of Sri Lanka is prepared to set up a National Land Commission and forms of judicial inquiry to deal with any disputes relating to land policy and land settlement.

The Sri Lanka Government stands by the proposals made by J.R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka, on earlier occasions, including the proposals made to the All Party Conference in December 1984 which represented the views of the majority of the delegations, and the Draft Accord and the clarifications made thereafter.

The Sri Lanka Government draws attention to the Draft Accord of August 1985 and the clarifications made thereafter. The governments of Sri Lanka and India accepted the Draft Accord as a basis for further negotiations towards a mutually agreed accord by the parties concerned. Unfortunately the TULF response which came nearly four months later was almost wholly unrelated to the Draft Accord.

However, the Sri Lanka Government because of its earnest desire to reach a negotiated settlement, is prepared to examine those aspects of the TULF proposals which do not involve an amendment to the Sri Lanka constitution of such a character as would require a referendum.

The Sri Lanka Government proposals, as agreed and accepted, have been within the context of the unity, sovereignty, integrity and unitary character of the constitution of Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Government will continue to implement the provisions relating to language in the constitution which provide that Sinhala be the Official Language, and Sinhala and Tamil the national languages of Sri Lanka. The relevant provisions of the Constitution are annexed to this aide memoire.

With regard to the English language the Sri Lanka Government is prepared to implement the proposals contained in the address of President Jayewardene to Parliament of ninth February 1983.

The visiting Indian delegation yesterday met Ceylon Workers Congress [CWC] leader and Rural Industrial Development Minister Savumyamoorthy Thondaman at a 55 minute session.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting Mr. Thondaman said "this round of talks has not so far had much success or progress but many more meetings are scheduled and I am confident that a result will be seen soon." He said the Indian delegation had discussed with him matters relating to the proposals the CWC placed before the now defunct all-party conference.

He said "the Indian delegation holds the view that if after the clarifications are over, the present set of proposals fail to meet expectations, the CWC proposals may be considered.

Prime Minister Premadasa Arrives in Turkey 1 May

For coverage of the visit to Turkey by Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, including his meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and President Kenan Evren, see the Turkey section of the 6 May Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Khomeyni To Hold No Meetings During Ramadan

LD101053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the imam's secretariat has announced: As in past years the imam of the ummah will hold no private or announced meetings during the holy month of Ramadan.

Navy Warns U.S., France on Shipping Searches

LD121308 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran Monday warned the U.S. and France that it would encounter their warships if they interfere in Iranian inspection of cargo ships sailing the Persian Gulf. Iran's Navy Commander Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said U.S. and French warships have been recently disturbing Iranian naval forces in their inspection of cargo ships, suspected of carrying goods for the Iraqi regime.

Naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran regularly inspect cargo ships suspected of carrying Iraqi-bound goods and seize any goods which may help the Iraqi war efforts.

Captain Malekzadegan said three U.S. and French missile launching warships including *David R. Ray* and *Y. Pearl*, equipped with helicopters were patroling near Iranian security zone.

In an interview with Tehran daily *ETTELA'AT* he said a U.S. naval fleet has been deployed in the Oman sea to supply American ships sailing in the Persian Gulf. Foreign warships sometimes escort commercial ships belonging to the southern Persian Gulf countries in a show of power, Malekzadegan said. "If the warships escort ships carrying goods for the Iraqi regime and Iran becomes assured that they are a threat to its interest, we will act firmly against them," he said. The navy commander warned the U.S. warships to avoid such measures in order to prevent any clashes. "Our warning is serious and has been announced to the U.S. fleet through various channels," he said.

Reportage on Visit by Libyan Oil Minister

Arrival in Tehran

LD091702 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Libya's Minister of Petroleum Fawzi al-Shakshuki arrived here Friday carrying a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i. He was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh at the airport.

During his visit, the Libyan minister will inform Iranian officials on viewpoints of the members of Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in which session he had participated before his visit to Iran. On his visit to Saudi Arabia, Al-Shakshuki said he had discussed ways for increasing the oil price with Saudi officials.

Meanwhile, in a short interview Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said as time passes it is gradually becoming clear that decisions taken in the last OPEC session had not been correct and that proposals of Iran, Libya and Algeria could safeguard interests of OPEC member states.

Received by Khamene'i

LD101229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah oil minister, who is on a visit to Tehran at the head of a political delegation, this morning met and conferred with the president. At this meeting, which was also attended by Petroleum Minister Gholem Reza Aqazadeh and the Libyan Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Libyan oil minister conveyed a message from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and also presented to the president a report on the results of his negotiations with Saudi officials concerning efforts to return to the original price of oil at a future OPEC meeting. Then Mr Khamene'i, reciprocating thanks for the Libyan leader's kind message, stressed the continuous contacts of OPEC members with each other in order to bring about further coordination. He said: We believe in joint struggle between countries that have both the motivation and courage to further our cause, and we declare our readiness for every kind of cooperation, just as we have in the past.

Pointing to the necessity for security of shipping in the Persian Gulf region, the president added: We wish to see the Persian Gulf region in a state of total security and see this region considered as a separate entity from the war region. Noting the plots of world arrogance aimed at lowering the price of oil and at bringing pressure upon OPEC countries, he remarked: The question of conspiracy against OPEC is a real war, and all things that are necessary for conducting a war must be prepared by us. In this respect, the things that are vital in this path are courage, alertness, and speed in action and cooperation between progressive forces who possess goals.

In conclusion the president stressed that the aim of all OPEC countries must be that of returning the price of oil to its original level and thanked Libya with regard to the oil question. He also emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran will stand beside its Libyan brothers in all events and issues.

Meets With Musavi

LD101738 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpts] Tehran, May 10, IRNA — Visiting Libyan Petroleum Minister Fawzi al-Shakshuki met with President 'Ali Khamene'i and conveyed the Libyan leader's warm greetings to him, here Saturday.

Meanwhile in a separate meeting with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi here Saturday, Al-Shakshuki expressed thanks for Iranian officials' good will for stabilzing oil prices.

He also briefed the prime minister on efforts made by his country to this end and said the recent coordination has largely improved

world oil markets. He noted that an expanding cooperation would help the oil market further improve.

Musavi expressed hope that Iran's joint stance and cooperation with Libya and other friendly OPEC countries would cause oil prices to return to its previous levels and restore the denied rights of oil producing countries to them.

"We hope that those OPEC member countries which inspired by the U.S. have driven down oil prices and thereby prompted the outrage of their own nations and of other oil producing countries would review their stance and make good on their past wrong moves," he said.

On the importance of a permanent security in the Persian Gulf, Prime Minister Musavi emphasized, "We cannot remain silent vis-a-vis those countries which support the Iraqi regime by using the Persian Gulf waters but at the same time we do not seek to make it difficult for neutral countries."

Meets with Velayati

GF110514 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Libyan Petroleum Minister Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki, who is currently in Tehran, yesterday afternoon met with Mr Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting the Libyan petroleum minister discussed the issues and latest developments in the region. He talked about and exchanged views on adopting a unified and coordinated effort to confront the plot of lowering the price of oil.

Our country's foreign minister then confirmed his remarks and said: Our cooperation with Libya in the political and petroleum arenas has had good progress. I hope this progress will also show in all economic and industrial areas.

Seen Off by Aqazadeh

LD111126 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, 11 May, IRNA — The Libyan Secretary of Planning Fawzi al-Shakshuki, who visited Tehran to deliver Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi's message to President Khamene'i, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by the Iranian oil minister, Aqazadeh.

Before his departure he spoke to a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of Iran and reiterated his defense of the Iranian, Algerian, and Libyan proposal calling for restoring official OPEC prices and the 14 million barrel ceiling. Commenting on the withdrawal of U.S. oil companies from Libya, the Libyan petroleum secretary said: Their departure shall have no effect whatsoever in our operations. However, should they decide to continue their operation, then it goes without saying that we will honor our agreements with them.

Commenting on the same issue, Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh told our reporter: We have a number of experts in Libya who assist that country with its oil exploitation. If U.S. companies decide to leave Libya, then our experts will increase their assistance to Libya in its efforts to explore and produce oil.

Referring to the forthcoming OPEC session, Aqazadeh said: We do remain firm in our stance to restore official oil prices. If the previous session had adopted the decision to establish a 14 million barrel ceiling for OPEC production, then we would now be witnessing the restoration of $28 per barrel.

Syria's Al-Shar' Brings Message for Khamene'i

Greeted by Velayati

LD121056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', Syrian minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a political delegation. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati. On his arrival in Tehran, he spoke to our correspondent about the objective of the trip, saying that he is to deliver a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Khamene'i on the recent regional developments as well as holding talks with Islamic Republic officials.

Meets Khamene'i, Others

JN121548 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Terhan — Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i this afternoon received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who handed him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the latest developments in the region. Attending the meeting were Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ibrahim al-Yunis, and the director of the foreign minister's office, Walid al-Mu'allim.

Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi also received Al-Shar' today. During the meeting, talks dealt with bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Following his arrival in Tehran this morning, Al-Shar' held talks with Dr Velayati during which they reviewed the current situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Musavi Meets Outgoing Cuban Ambassador

LD110900 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — The Cuban ambassador to Tehran, Luis Marisy Figueredo, bid farewell to Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday at the end of his service in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting the Cuban ambassador reported to the prime minister of his four years of service and expressed interest of his country in further expansion of mutual relations. The prime minister praising services of the Cuban ambassador in deepening mutual relations between the two revolutionary countries hoped that the ties will grow further.

Activities of Muslim Revolutionaries in Iraq

LD101259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] The news unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq reported that a group of Muslim revolutionary Iraqis on 7 April, the anniversary of the establishment of the 'Aflaqi Ba'thist Party, planted an incendiary bomb weighing 10 kg inside the Army Cultural Club in the officer's housing estate in Baghdad's Zayyuniyah region.

While retreating from this region, and in the process of clashes with the club's guards, this group succeeded in killing two military intelligence personnel of the Iraqi regime and injuring many others. However, the bomb was defused by experts before it exploded. In this clash one of the Muslim revolutionaries was wounded and captured but the rest of the group returned to base safely.

The report also states that one of the organizations of the military branch affiliated to the Al-'Amal al-Islami Organization of Iraq recently conducting some operations in the Sayyid Kan region in Iraq's Kurdestan Province of Iraq and succeeded in completely destroying an Iraqi army vehicle which was carrying military equipment to the battlefronts of the imposed war. As a result, three of the vehicle's crew were killed. The report further states that after this operation, a large number of organizations affiliated to the al-'Amal al-Islami Organization of Iraq succeeded in distributing and posting in the townships of Nasiriyah, Za'faraniyah and Al-Thawrah regions of Baghdad a large number of photographs and texts of speeches by Imam Khomeyni as well as placards carrying slogans such as: Death to Saddam; Victory to Islam; The war will not end while Saddam is still ruling over Iraq, and other slogans.

During these activities, members of the al-'Amal al-Islami Organization clashed with Iraqi Government forces, as a result of which brother fighter Abu Hasan Fadl was wounded and arrested. There is no information available concerning his fate.

The report also states that the al-'Amal al-Islami Organization of Iraq, while declaring that it was responsible for carrying out these crusading operations, stresses once again that it will carry on the armed jihad until the destruction of the Iraqi regime and the establishment of a government of divine justice.

Sham'Khani Appointed IRGC Ground Forces Commander

LD111329 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 11, IRNA — Acting Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Sham'khani was appointed as commander of the IRGC Ground Forces Sunday. The appointment was made by the IRGC Commander in Chief Mohsen Reza'i during a ceremony held in a headquarters in the southern fronts, attended by commanders of IRGC combat units.

Speaking to the gathering, Reza'i outlined the current trend of the Iraqi-imposed war, reasons of Iraqi air raids on Iranian residential areas and political as well as military impacts of the Iranian Val Fajr-8 offensive launched in Iraqi Al-Faw Peninsula on 9 February.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

'Over 100' Iraqi Casualties

LD091524 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran killed and wounded at least 100 Iraqi soldiers and captured some others in patrol operations in southern Majnun Island and in Hawr al-Huwayzah destroying three boats of the enemy as well as a number of their positions and fortifications, according to Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters.

The joint Army-IRGC Hqs said Iranian Muslim combatants suppressed the enemy's movements in Sharhani and Pich-e Angizeh regions demolishing a number of Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers as well as military hardware.

The Muslim forces of Iran Inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi Infantry Brigades 805, 44 and 442 of Division 20. In the course of the clash, scores of enemy soldiers were killed and wounded whose corpses remain in the operational region.

Iranian Havaniruz (Army Aviation service) helicopters hit and set ablaze Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers in a series of valiant air operations.

Communique No 2,465

LD091757 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — A military communique published here Friday said that heavy clashes were going on in Pich-e Angizeh and Sharhani operational regions where Iranian Muslim combatants are maintaining the upper hand with enemy activity under control and still being subjected to heavy artillery barrages. Ten enemy soldiers were captured and an undetermined amount of damages and casualties inflicted on them. The clashes were said to be continuing.

Communique number 2465 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces also said that several Iraqi patrol units were reconnoitered in Nahr-Anbar and Chazzabeh operational regions and subjected to the fire of the Muslim forces of Iran. It added that the units were forced to flee, sustaining some damages and casualties.

Iranian Army aviation service helicopters attacked enemy armoured forces in Chananeh operational region and set ablaze a considerable number of Iraqi tanks at 13:00 hours local time (09:30 GMT) Thursday, throwing their organization into disarray the communique says. It added that a large number of the tanks crew were killed or wounded in the operation.

It furthermore says that Iranian fire checked increased Iraqi movements in Faqqeh and Chananeh operational regions on Thursday. In Nahr-Anbar and Yebis operational regions, Iran-

ian Muslim combatants checked engineering efforts of the enemy. Intruding enemy planes were repelled from Shalacheh region by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded a considerable number of Iraqi forces in border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam demolishing heavy and light gun emplacements of the enemy. Four heavy vehicles of the enemy forces were also set ablaze, and efforts of enemy infantry and armoured units were halted. In Qasr-e Shirin, an Iraqi engineering unit was subjected to the fire of the Muslim forces of Iran and sustained some casualties.

In northwestern fronts, exchange of artillery fire was more intense in Sardasht operational region where the movements of Iraqi vehicles was halted especially in Chuman-Mostafa. In this front, it added, the Iraqi forces sustained damages and casualties while one base of theirs as well as six vehicles were smashed.

Iranian anti-aircraft fire prevented Iraqi warplanes from bombing Ziveh township in W. Azarbayjan Prov., Thursday, according to the Joint Staff. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was subjected to enemy artillery fire Thursday, as a result of which some civilians were wounded.

Positions Inside Iraq Hit

LD100858 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit Iraqi positions inside Iraq, north west of Faqqeh, northwest of the border town of Bostan in Khuzestan Province (with coordinates of 32.19 north and 47.25 east) early Saturday morning inflicting casualties and damage on Iraqi troops, said the Joint Staff Headquarters in a statement. The Iranian aircraft returned safely to their bases after carrying out their mission, the statement added.

10 May Combat HQ Report

LD101114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] According to the latest report received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the combatants of Islam, in the operational sectors of Pich-e Angizah and Sharahani, continued to assault the enemy and to inflict heavy losses.

In last night's heavy battle further numbers of enemy troops were killed, bringing the total of enemy casualties in the victorious operations of yesterday and today to more than 3,000 killed or wounded. According to the same report, at 0540 today the pilots of the Army Aviation Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a successful operation, with a few bomber-fighter aircraft, bombed the assembly point of the armored forces of the Ba'thist army of Iraq in the northwest of Faqqeh at 32.19 north and 47.25 east, inside Iraqi territory. After setting ablaze the enemy positions and inflicting heavy losses on them, they returned safely to base.

Also, in the closing hours of yesterday, one helicopter gunship belonging to the Ba'thist enemy that intended to get close to the positions of our forces, turned into the target of the accurate fire of the combatants of Islam, and was downed in the operational sector. In the course of yesterday's operation, more than 200 tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles of the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime's forces were made into the targets of the crushing fire of the brave anti-armored units fo the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps ground forces and the artillery and Army Aviation Force's fire and were destroyed.

Residential Attacks Protested

LD101652 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA — Iranian representative at the United Nations Friday submitted a note to the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in relation with Iraq's escalating attacks upon residential and housing quarters in Iran.

The note mentioned recent Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Bakhtaran Province on Paril 29, which was 'informally' inspected by a U.N. Team pursuant to the Attacks. The inspection, the note said was informal because the Iraqi regime would not guarantee the safety of the U.N. team in the area.

The Iranian representative also called on the U.N. secretary general to publish the reports of the U.N. team which he said is evidence of Iraq's violation of international conventions and of the June 12, 1984 agreement between the two warring countries.

Iraqi planes hit a residential area in Bakhtaran, seat of Bakhtaran Province, and also Rahim-Abad village near the city on Tuesday 29, April, as a result of which one civilian was martyred and another 32 injured. Head of U.N. military ream in Iran inspected the bombed areas on May 6, in Rahim-Abad village and Tavon township of Bakhtaran Province which was devasted in Iraqi air raids.

On June 10, 1984, the Iraqi regime assured the United Nations secretary general that it would discontinue its attack on non-military targets in Iran. Since then Iraqi regime has repeatedly attacked Iranian cities and population centers.

Communique No 2,464

LD101735 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 10 IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed concentration center of Iraqi armoured units north of Faqqeh in Iraq at 32.19 north and 48.25 east coordinates, at 02:10 hours GMT Saturday inflicting substantial damage on them. The Iranian planes all returned to their bases safely, according to a military communique here Saturday.

The communique number 2464 released by the joint staff command of the Armed Forces says that Iranian naval forces intercepted and inspected four tankers and one commercial ship which were sailing under foreign flags in the Hormuz Strait Friday, but allowed them to continue their voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying military hardware for the Iraqi regime.

Iranian Muslim combatants smashed two Iraqi offensives launched in two points of the southern fronts Friday, killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi soldiers, and destroying 200 tanks and personnel carriers as well as several vehicles of theirs. During the operation one enemy helicopter was shot down and many Iraqi soldiers were captured and transferred behind the fronts, says the communique.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses during artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants. The communique says five Iraqi bunkers and observation posts together with several vehicles were demolished and a number of Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded in the western fronts Friday.

Some Iraqi boats trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in the Majnun Islands were forced to flee leaving behind killed Iraqi soldiers. Three Iraqi soldiers with their equipment were also captured according to the communique. Meanwhile, Iraqi long range artillery fire shelled the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, Friday.

According to the latest reports, Iranian fighter bombers pounded Iraqi armoured units in Faqqeh at 18:05 and 18:50 hours (14:35 and 15:20 GMT) Saturday. The planes all returned to their bases safely.

Commander on Faqqeh Victories

LD102218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] Acting Commander of the Islamic Republic Ground Forces Colonel Jamali, has taken part in a press conference. Referring to the impressive operations and victories of the Islamic combatants in Faqqeh operational region, he said that these victories were monumental. He added: The ever-victorious Islamic Republic forces are closely monitoring all enemy movements and continue to inflict heavy blows on enemy forces.

Col Jamali, who was attending the press conference in the Faqqeh operational theatre, stated: The Iraqi Ba'thist -Zionist regime, in order to create spurious morale among the vanquished Iraqi forces and to please its reactionary benefactors, embarked on an operation in the area making use of forces from the 20th Division, 435 and 805 Brigades, the 44th Infantry Brigade, the 60th Composite Brigade, the (Hetkin) Commando Brigade, the 1st Presidential Brigade, and the 10th Iraqi Division. They were oblivious to the fact that they were being faced with the coordinated actions of the army of Islam, including those of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, or that they would be forced to retreat and then flee, while suffering heavy losses.

Commenting on the outcome of the operations, Col Jamali said: The counteroffensive launched by the enemy in the [Faqqeh] area resulted in heavy losses to the Iraqi forces. The Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps units succeeded in putting out of action more than 3,000 enemy troops and capturing some enemy personnel.

Khatam HQ on Faqqeh Fighting

GF110504 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] According to the latest report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters, yesterday afternoon, at 1705 [1335 GMT] and 1850 [1510 GMT], the fast-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces carried out two successful missions in the Faqqeh area.

They heavily bombed armored troop concentrations of the aggressive Iraqi Army in this region. They set fire to their positions and inflicted heavy damage upon the Zionist enemy. According to this report, the brave Islamic pilots all returned safely to their bases after the operation.

Strategic Iraqi Bridge Bombed

LD110616 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit an Iraqi strategic bridge in north of Zobeydah, in Faqqeh Region, Sunday morning. According to a Joint Staff communique released here, a number of Iranian fighter-bombers raided the bridge at 05:30 hours local time in north of Zobeydah (with coordinates 32.26 north and 47.10 east). The communique added that the Iranian war planes all returned to bases safely after carrying out their mission.

1,000 Iraqis Killed in Chemical Explosion

LD111039 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Al-Faw, May 11, IRNA — Some 1,000 Iraqi forces were killed and thousands of others were wounded when a large dump of chemical cartridges exploded east of Salt Lake in Al-Faw Peninsula on April 17, said an Iraqi officer who had recently sought asylum from Iran in Al-Faw region. He added that seven Iraqi divisions and brigades stationed in the east of the Salt Lake suffered heavy losses due to the spread of poisonous gas over the area.

The Iraqi officer who requested not to be identified for the security of his family, told IRNA that he was on leave when the incident happened triggered by the exchange of artillery fire between Islamic combatants of Iran and the Iraqi forces. The wind after the incident, spread the poisonous gas to several kilometers and caused the injury of more Iraqi forces.

He said that since he had been cooperating with combatant Muslim Iraqis including the Dawa party, Iraqi commanders were suspicious of him for having given the coordinates of the dump to the Iranian forces. Therefore, he said, he decided to seek asylum from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Meanwhile, an official at Hadhart Fatima field hospital in "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater said that on the day of explosion a number of Islamic forces of Iran were transferred to the field hospital due to being exposed to chemical substances. He said that it was strange to the officials of the hospital since the operational region was neither bombed nor shelled with chemical weapons.

Iraqi Counteroffensive Checked

LD111204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] According to a report by Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters for the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, following remarkable victories by the Islamic warriors in the operational area of Pich-e Angizeh, they were able to detect a counteroffensive launched by the Zionist enemy and, by engaging the enemy, checked the futile move of the Iraqi forces. The victorious Islamic forces, destroying more than 50 percent of the Iraqi 60th Infantry Brigade, killed a large number of them and captured some others. In the course of this engagement, an enemy helicopter was hit by the fire of the Islamic combatants and destroyed.

At 0530 hours (local) early this morning, a number of interceptor-bomber aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force, conducting a successful operation, bombed a supply and strategic bridge of the enemy, situated to the north of Zobeydah operational area at N 32 26 and E 27 10, and returned safely to their bases having inflicted heavy damage on the enemy forces.

Also, during the oeprations this morning, the Islamic warriors in Pich-e Angizeh region targeted 20 tanks and personnel carriers and a number of vehicles of the Ba'thist-Zionist reigme in Baghdad and destroyed them with their pounding fire.

Iraqi Infiltration Attempt Repulsed

LD111352 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 11, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants stationed on the Shur Shirin Heights repulsed an Iraqi infiltrative attempt over the past 24 hours killing 15 Iraqi soldiers and destroying several enemy vehicles. Meanwhile battle with heavy weapons continued in most parts of Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts raging more heavily in Sumar and Maymak.

Islamic forces killed over 35 Iraqi soldiers and destroyed 15 bunkers, five observation posts, one tank, one loader and two munitions dumps of Iraqi forces in these fronts, according to IRNA reports.

Communique No 2,467

LD111702 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — An invading Iraqi war plane was shot down by surface-to-air fire of Iranian Muslim combatants in the Persian Gulf at 14:10 hours (10:40 hours GMT) Sunday, according to a military communique here Sunday.

The joint staff communique number 2467 says that Iranian Muslim combatants in a successful mission blew up a newly-built Iraqi bridge in Yebis at 11:15 hours (07:45 hours GMT) Saturday and then returned to their base sa'ely.

In Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts, the communique says, due to heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions, 20 gun emplacements and observation posts together with one tank and one engineering vehicle were destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded. Two enemy munitions dumps were also set ablaze. Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the north-western fronts set fire to parts of their positions, and enemy vehicles and also to a munitions dump, according to the joint staff.

An Iraq infantry unit attempting to strengthen its positions in north of Qal'at Dizah was shelled and forced to flee by Iranian forces. The Iraqi troops also sustained some casualties, says the communique. Elsewhere in the southern fronts, Mulsim forces checked flights of Iraqi helicopters in Yebis and Nahr-Anbar and opened fire on an enemy column in Faqqeh.

Iraqis Diverting Attention From Defeat

LD111827 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — Iraqi army commanders have launched massive face-saving propaganda campaign in Iraq in a bid to divert attention from their defeats in Al-Faw, Iraqi POW Muhammad Yaqub confessed Sunday. Yaqub was taken captive in a repulsed Iraqi counter-offensive in Faqqeh operational region. "Whenever Iraqi forces attempted to attack Muslim combatants of Iran they met with heavy blows and subsequently sustained considerable damage and casualties" he said. The POW said that he and three others are the only survivors of the smashed Iraqi company.

12 May Khatam HQ Report

GF120522 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] According to the latest report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters, the Islamic forces, including the brave men of the 16th Armored Division of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed forces, the sacrificers of the 17th Division of 'Ali ibn 'Abi-Talib and the Sayyed ol-Shohada Brigade, and the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps continued their operations against the forces of the Zionist enemy in the Faqqeh operational area. They delivered heavy blows against the aggressive enemy. During their fighting with the Iraqi forces the Islamic forces, destroyed much light and heavy equipment and weaponry or took it intact as booty.

Also according to this report at 1530 [1200 GMT] yesterday the pilots of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces bombed the Zionist enemy's positions in the Faqqeh operational area and set fire to a large number of the aggressive enemy's equipment.

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MAY 1986

Israel and Syria

There is no chance of Israel reaching a political settlement with Syria so long as President Hafiz al-Asad remains in power, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres asserted in an interview reported by Jerusalem radio. He disclosed that Israeli efforts to establish a dialogue with the Syrians have received a negative response. As for Syria's military preparations, Jerusalem television stated that Israel takes a "very grave view" of fortifications recently established by the Syrians in eastern Lebanon, noting that a message on the issue has been transmitted to President al-Asad, but has "not yet borne fruit." The Syrians have prepared dugouts for tanks and artillery south of their current deployment line in the Al-Biqa' Valley, the television said, and while the United States has viewed these preparations as "defensive," the dugouts provide potential for an "offensive initiative" as large Syrian armored forces could occupy them within hours. In another military development, Beirut radio cited reports from southern Lebanon that Israeli military convoys were seen moving toward the Golan Heights during the night of 12-13 May. However, the commander of UN forces on the Golan earlier told IDF radio that both the Israeli and Syrian sectors of the heights were "quiet" with both sides adhering to their agreements.

In a related commentary, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service accused Syria of "war hysteria," adding that the crucial question now is whether the Damascus rulers will "slip and fall in the trap or whether they will show wisdom by deciding not to go to the brink of disaster." In Syria, Damascus radio's Palestine broadcast maintained that Britain's recent behavior toward Syria is aimed at providing a "cover for an Israeli aggression," which is "likely to take place but will certainly be defeated."

Syria-Iran

Reporting on the Syrian foreign minister's 12 May visit to Iran, Tehran radio said he stressed the importance of "further unity" between Iran and Syria and delivered a "kind message" from President al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported further fighting in the East Maysan sector, claiming that Iraq's IV Army Corps defeated an enemy infantry attack, killing 76 Iranians, while over 240 Iranians were killed in other recent action in the area. An Iraqi military source cited by INA maintained that 1,584 Iranians were killed during the IV Army's 9 May offensive in the East Maysan sector. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA reported fighting in the same region, stating that Iranian planes bombed Iraqi targets in the Faqqeh area 12-13 May while Iranian troops repulsed two Iraqi attacks. Iran launched further air attacks in the Faqqeh sector early 13 May, according to a military announcement reported by Tehran radio.

On the situation in the Gulf, Iran's Navy commander told *ETTELA'AT that U.S. and French warships have recently been* disturbing Iranian searches of cargo ships entering the Gulf, and he warned the United States and France against such interference, according to IRNA.

Libya

Announcing Libya's decision to expel 36 diplomats from the embassies of Italy, FRG, France, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, and Denmark, JANA said the diplomats are being deported in retaliation for the "arbitrary measures" adopted by these countries against members of Libyan People's Bureaus. JANA noted that employees remaining at these embassies are henceforth confined to the Tripoli area, which they cannot leave without securing official permission. Libya would not have applied the principle of reciprocal treatment had there been any real justification for the deportation of Libyans from People's Bureaus in Western Europe, JANA's political editor affirmed in a related commentary. The expulsion of two Belgian officials means that U.S. interests are no longer represented at all in Libya, according to Brussels radio.

In a separate development, JANA claimed the Israeli Air Force chief of staff has disclosed that "five Zionist pilots" participated in the 15 April U.S. raid on Libya.

Tunisian Detained in France

A Tunisian suspected of bomb attacks in Paris and London has told French police that he received orders and explosives from a PLO official in Baghdad, Paris radio reported.

Qatar-Bahrain

Qatar released the 30 captive foreign workers 12 May, Bahrain's *GULF DAILY NEWS reported, disclosing that the men were* suddenly taken from their cells and put on a flight to Bahrain.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
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Najibullah Addresses Hazara Elders
LD122121 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 May 86

[Speech by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee at a 10 May meeting with elders, ulema and intellectuals of the Hazara nationality at the Storay Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God alone, his prayers be upon Muhammad the chosen, and his family, who enjoy the grace of God, and his blessed disciples. [verse in Arabic]

On behalf of the PDPA leadership cadres and staff, I offer the most profound respects. It is a matter of particular honor for me to be among the toiling, courageous and brave people of Afghanistan. You have lived for ages side by side with all other nationalities, tribes and clans with courage, grace and bravery. You have shared sorrows and happiness. You live at the skirt of the Baba mountains, to the north and south of Hindu Kush, at the center of Afghanistan. Not only are your mountains lofty, but also your dignity, your courage and bravery, which are as lofty as the mountains of your land. [applause]

History is a witness to the fact that despotic plunderers, whose meal tables were filled by the toil, work and sweat of the people of Afghanistan — including your toiling people at the forefront — in their turn issued decrees saying you should not benefit from professional education and training, particularly in the military field and in the Armed Forces. They issued decrees saying you should not have the freedom to perform your religious tenets and faith in your takia khanas [worship places] and mosques. You were considered as [words indistinct] children in this country.

However, you have faught against nature, oppression and persecution. The people of Hazara are people with courage! [applause] We consider the people of Hazara a thinking and mature tribe toward [words indistinct] of the unity and (?reform) of all nationalities, tribes and clans. We consider our noble Hazara compatriots as the symbol of service for the toiling man. Thus, if here in Afghanistan there has been a revolution -- a revolution in the interest of the toilers, a revolution which has destroyed the blood-sucking (?legacy) of all oppression, all savagery, tyranny and depotism, and a prosperous and progressive life is being built for the prosperity of man -- then you, more than any other (?strata) and before every one else, are deserving, and the revolution belongs to you. [applause] Your work and toil is witness to the fact that more than anyone else and better than anyone else, you know [words indistinct]. Therefore, I have the pleasure, at the instruction of my party and my leadership and at your request, to find myself among you toiling and revolutionary men. [applause]

In accordance with the PDPA program of action and in accordance with the basic principles of the DRA, in which the equality of rights between nationalities, tribes and clans is enshrined, and which embodies the need peaceful coexistence as brothers and friends, we consistently and without deviation direct all our efforts toward the Hazara nationalitiy, here at the heart of Afghanistan, having equal rights with every other nationality in the political, social, economic and military spheres, and in all aspects of our society. [applause]

Within the framework of the 10 Theses, the resolution of the Revolutionary Council, and the decisions of the 16th Central Committee Plenum we have (?begun) broadening the social bases of revolution on the foundation of the active participation of the broad masses of the people, including all classes, strata, religious leaders, ulema, and representatives of all nationalities and tribes. Undoubtedly, we have already taken some steps in this direction. (?Eight) of your representatives were elected to the Revolutionary Council, including two to the Revolutionary Council Presidium. You have one of your noblest representative, Sorabi, in the Ministry of State of the Council of Ministers. You have four governors in the structure of the organs of the state administration. A number of you noble compatriots are present in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and embassies. Four of your noble representatives are serving as NFF deputies. Five of your representatives serve as deputy ministers in various ministries. A number of your (?people) are high cadres of the Armed Forces, while 200 have enrolled in higher education in the military field at home and abroad. Here in Afghanistan one of the most outstanding and most noble representatives of yours, of ours, one of the most outstanding PDPA leaders, Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand [applause] is the esteemed chairman of the Council of Ministers.

We announce here before you that the matter of (?counting) and [words indistinct] is not in question; what is important in our society is the question of work, talent and practical authority.

The Central Council of the toiling Hazara nationality, which, in the final analysis has been chosen by you as a political organ of the representatives of your toiling nationality, is [words indistinct]. This council not only supports those who are in the Central Council of the Hazara nationality, those who are our friends, and those who support the stand of the revolution and the plans of the Party and State, but also takes the aspirations, intentions and aims of the PDPA and the DRA state to those who are doubtful about their positions and tells them that, here in revolutionary Afghanistan, in their ancient land, they can, with all equality, have an honorable life.

I say before you that you should contact those who, for a variety of political and historical reasons or due to the brutality, savagery and oppression of Hafizullah Amin, have left their homes and have had to flee. Convey to them the message of the PDPA and the DRA state that we, on the basis of the content of the 10 Theses, are ready and prepared for national compromise. They will not be brought under investigation, but could, as healthy forces, take part in the political sovereignty of the country under the present phase of the national democratic revolution. If we succeed in bringing these forces and various categories of our people — who are living in doubt and undecisiveness or have been angered and disappointed — to the ranks of their own revolution, to the side of the party and its aspirations, and stand in a united front on the side of all national, progressive, democratic, freedom-loving, patriotic and humanitarian forces, (?then) we can say without hesitation that in the course of a short period, bloodshed in the country will stop, and a lasting nationwide peace will be maintained. [applause] [passage indistinct]

42 Rebels Captured, Arms Seized in Army Operations

LD130658 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 12, BAKHTAR — Combing operations which were carried out by Armed Forces of the DRA in a number of localities in Qandahar, Balkh and Logar Provinces resulted in the confiscation of 130 rockets, 500 pieces of assorted weapons, and a large number of [words indistinct] of cannon and recoilless guns.

During the mopping up operation in a district of Balkh Province 42 bandits belonging to the Eslami band, were also captured.

Rebel Leader on Resistance, Soviet 'Invasion'

PA122218 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 May 86 p 3-A

[Text] "The resistance fighting in Afghanistan against the Soviet invaders has control of 80 percent of the country and maintains an independent administration throughout those territories," Abdul Rahim, high political officer of Unity, the Afghan resistance umbrella organization to which the country's seven fronts belong, has said.

Rahim and seven other important Afghan leaders visited the country and met with President Betancur, former President Turbay Ayala, Senate President Alvaro Villegas Moreno, and several leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Parties and the MOIR [Revolutionary Independent Workers Movement].

Abdul Rahim set forth the object of his visit to Colombia, which is part of a tour that includes visits to Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina: "I came to Latin America to seek recognition for the Afghan resistance and to tell the true story of Soviet brutality in my country."

At the diplomatic level, the main concern of the visiting Afghan envoys is to issue a warning regarding the Soviet intentions at the Geneva talks and the development of the situation of the Afghan conflict at the United Nations.

"Since Gorbachev's assumption of power in Moscow, the Soviets have substantially escalated the war. At the same time, they have shrewdly managed to organize talks between Kabul and Pakistan in Geneva under the sponsorship of the United Nations. These are not really the two parties involved. The conflict is between the resistance and the Soviets. The Geneva affair is part of the Soviet tactic to make it appear that peace is being negotiated, while in effect the war is escalating," Rahim explained.

He indicated that the Afghan resistance has attributed great importance to Latin America's public opinion and support. Regarding the Soviets' intentions, he said: "In Geneva they are attempting to obtain recognition for the puppet in Kabul, while we are taking steps around the world to obtain recognition for the resistance. That way, if an agreement is produced it should acknowledge the resistance as an essential party in the conflict."

Abdul Rahim recalled that last October a delegation of the Afghan resistance went to the United Nations and sat in the place designated for the official Afghan delegation. "On that occasion, 121 countries condemned the invasion and we circulated a formal petition to give the resistance the official representation at the United Nations. Latin America's vote is very important," he said, adding that the resistance currently maintains offices in several countries.

"The whole world knows that the Soviets invaded Afghanistan with 80,000 men in 1979, promising to crush the resistance. However, the resistance has in fact resisted and 6 years later we control 80 percent of the territory," Abdul Rahim said, as he gave an overview of the current situation in his country.

"Seven years later the Soviets have more than 200,000 troops stationed in Afghanistan and maintain there one of the most sophisticated outfits ever used by an invading country. It includes hundreds of the advanced MI-24 helicopters, high performance bombers, modern tanks, all kinds of long-range weapons, and a broad assortment of missiles," he said.

The Aghan leader indicated that in the beginning the Soviets' principal objective was to destroy the bases of the Afghan resistance. However, after they were defeated, they went on to their second objective. "Now their war is against the people. They stage bombings to destroy the agricultural system, but succeed only in destroying many lives. Thousands of people have been killed. Thousands of others have been maimed."

According to Abdul Rahim, the following is the toll of this Soviet war against the people: "In these 6 years, 1 million have died and more than 4 million Afghans are refugees abroad."

However, he stated: "We must nevertheless repeat that the resistance has control of at least 80 percent of the country and that we have seized many weapons. The objective of the resistance now is to occupy the Soviet bases. Large direct confrontations and fierce guerrilla warfare are taking place to seize those positions."

Giving a general outline of the current military situation in Afghanistan, the political official stated: "From the military viewpoint, the infantry aspect, the Soviet are losing in our country. But the greatest problem for us is the air attacks because they have very powerful airplanes and helicopters."

The seven groups which for several years had fought in a separate and uncoordinated manner against the Soviets, united firmly in Unity, the great front of the Afghan resistance led by Professor Rabbani.

The unity of all the fighters in a single organization has brought about the generalization throughout the country of the war of the Afghan rsistance against the Soviets to such a point that, as Abdul Rahim pointed out: "All the Afghan people have taken up weapons."

Nevertheless, there are places in the country where there is more intense fighting. "The Panjsher Valley continues to be the region of the most intense fighting against the invaders. The Soviets have 20 advance posts there, but most of the valley is controlled by the resistance. All our forces inside the valley and nearby are fighting to expel the invaders. It is a key site in the war."

In the same way, Abdul Rahim stressed another combat zone: "Sooner or later, the resistance will end up expelling the Soviets from Afghanistan because this is what we have done with all those who have invaded us in the last 5,000 years of our history. In addition to the Panjsher Valley, we are currently fighting in the city of Qandahar where there is fighting in the streets and its outskirts. Another permanent war zone is the border with Pakistan where many invaders have died. The same thing occurs in the city of Paktia and in northern Afghanistan."

Throughout this already long conflict, the Soviets have used all kinds of weapons, including those prohibited by international agreements. "If something has been shown by the invasion of our country, it is precisely the real character of the Soviets. They have acted like modern day barbarians there and their most aberrant form of behavior is the use of chemical weapons that kill many people by poisoning them. The Soviets have also bombed villages, towns, and cities. They have carried out these bombings not against military targets, but against the population in general, and in this way thousands of people, especially children and old people, have died," he recounted.

Abdul Rahim and the other envoys of the Afghan resistance against the Soviets came to Latin America with this news.

Riyadh: Mujahidin Use Missiles To Attack Jalalabad
GF130606 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Afghan mujahidin sources reported today that the Mujahidin attacked the city of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan with missiles the day before yesterday killing six Soviet troops and destroying four helicopters. The mujahidin added that they also destroyed a radar station and three tanks.

Gandhi States U.S. Raid on Libya Unjustified

BK130903 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the American action in Libya is totally unjustified. In an interview to the Egyptian paper, *AL-AHRAM*, he said the U.S. action will not stop terrorism but would open up new areas for pressure tactics.

About Indo-U.S. ralations, Mr Gandhi said the two countries have made a lot of headway in their ties. He made it clear that India does not want a collision course with any superpower. About the Nonaligned Movement, Mr Gandhi said that it has grown stronger in the last few years.

External Affairs Spokesman on Terrorism in Nepal

BK121605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] India has assured Nepal that it will never permit its territory to be used for any undesirable activity aimed against that country. In a statement in New Delhi today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry expressed India's concern at reports in the Nepalese press about acts of terrorism in Nepal by some persons who claimed to have entered that country from India. He said the government is cooperating fully with the Nepalese authorities in investigating these reports from the Indian side of the border. Anybody found to be involved in acts of terrorism would be dealt with severely.

The spokesman pointed out that the Indian Government has always been opposed to terrorism in all its forms. This is particularly so when it occurs on the soil of a country with whom India has always enjoyed the closest and most friendly relations.

Continuing Violence in Sri Lanka Condemned

BK130929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, has said that the government condemns the continuing violence in Sri Lanka and reiterates its firm view that there can be no military solution to the ethnic dispute in that country.

Mr Shiv Shankar said the continuing violence is vitiating the atmosphere for working toward a peaceful solution. He said the basic and urgent objective which India has in mind, is to find a peaceful and durable political solution to the long pending ethnic problem of Sri Lanka. The minister was making a statement in response to a call-attention motion on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and the outcome of the recent visit of the Indian delegation to that country in the Rajya Sabha today. The motion was moved by Mr V. Gopalaswamy, DMK, and 24 others.

Mr Shiv Shankar made it clear that unless the Government of Sri Lanka takes decisive steps to accommodate the Tamil aspirations, the political process, whch has been restarted after a gap of time, may suffer a set back.

Making a mention of the Indian delegation led by Mr P. Chidambaram which visited Colombo recently, Mr Shiv Shanker said that the delegation had come back with some more detailed formulations specifying to what extent the Sri Lanka Government is willing to meet the Tamils' political aspirations. While there has been some progress on issues like the overall structure for devolution of power and land settlement policy, there have been a number of crucial gaps in the formulations on code issues like law and order and the relationship between the present northern and eastern provinces, to which the Tamils attach great importance. The formulations are being evaluated by the government.

The Sri Lanka Government has also been requested to communicate their views on certain alternative formulations. Mr Shiv Shankar said that only a package of proposals, which can be considered fair and reasonable for a negotiated settlement, can be put to the Tamil side. Since the process is continuing, it would be premature to draw any conclusion.

Initiating the discussion, Mr Gopalaswamy said that Sri Lanka Government should be told that diplomatic ties will be cut off if the killings do not stop immediately. He was supported by many opposition members. A suggestion was made for making an attempt for economic sanctions against Sri Lanka. Several members pointed out that the Sri Lanka Government has failed to keep its commitments on many earlier occasions.

A member said that President Jayewardene is trying to internationalize the Sri Lanka problem by inviting Western powers to support him against the Tamils. An opposition member said that India cannot ignore the manner in which human rights are being eroded in Sri Lanka and wanted an all-party delegation to be sent there. Another member suggested that a definite time frame be drawn for solving the issue. Several opposition and ruling party members said the happenings in Sri Lanka disturbed peace in the region. The debate is continuing.

Home Affairs Minister on Governor's Rule in Kashmir

BK121630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 May 86

[Excerpt] The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, today assured the Rajya Sabha that the Center has no intention to impose its will on the Jammu and Kashmir governor. He said nothing will be done which is against the law of the land. Mr Mirdha was replying to a call attention motion moved by Mr K. Mohanand, CPI-M, and others on the continued suspended animation of the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly. Several opposition members demanded that the assembly be dissolved, fresh elections held, and a democratic government installed in place of governor's rule. Mr Mirdha said the proclamation of governor's rule in the state will cease to operate on the expiry of 6 months from the date of its imposition on 7 March last. He said it is for the governor to take a view on the matter during this period.

Giving details of the efforts being made to restore communal harmony and normalcy in the state, the minister said a high-level board has been set up to oversee the law and order situation.

Police administration has been strengthened by providing paramilitary forces to the state. An effective vigil is being maintained at the borders.

Akali Dal Reaffirms Confidence in Punjab Minister

BK121611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] The Akali Dal working committee has reaffirmed its full confidence in the leadership of the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, at its emergency meeting held in Chandigarh today. The meeting, which was attended by 22 out of 31 members of the committee, also empowered Mr Barnala to take appropriate action against members indulging in anti-party and anti-Panthic [anti-community] activities.

The meeting expressed satisfaction that Mr Barnala got the Golden Temple complex clear of terrorists and militants as per the direction of Sharbat Khalsa [Sikh highest congregation] convention held at Anandpur Saheb in February. The committee also urged the Center to implement immediately the Punjab accord to restore peace and normalcy in the state. The meeting directed Mr Barnala to launch a popular movement to fulfill the dreams of Sant Longowal promoting unity, peace, and amity.

The executive committee of SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee], which also met in Chandigarh this afternoon, referred the question of starting kar seva [voluntary service] at Akal Takht Sahib [highest seat of Sikh religion] till its next meeting.

The Jullundur police in Punjab have arrested a wanted terrorist, Gur Sevak Singh, alias Babla, who had escaped from Jodhpur jail sometime back. He carried an award on his head. He was responsible for the shooting incident in Ludhiana on 28 March last in which 43 people were killed and many others injured.

Meanwhile, one person was killed when three unidentified youths fired at him near village Sekhwan in Gurdaspur District this morning. The victim identified as the sarpanch [village council member] of the village, was going on a scooter when he was attacked by the assailants.

1 Killed in Firing in Darjeeling Strike

BK121617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] One person was killed in police firing and several others, including police personnel, were injured in a series of incidents on the first day of a 3-day Darjeeling bundh [strike] today.

According to official sources, police opened fire in self-defense when a large group of Gurkha activists, who gave a call for the bundh, stormed the Panihata police outpost under the Natalbari police station injuring policemen stationed there. In other incidents of violence, the supporters of the bundh attacked state transport buses at four places.

Police reinforcements have been deployed at vulnerable points and prohibitary orders under Section 144 Criminal Procedure Code [prohibiting assembly of five or more persons] have been promulgated in the town.

Continuing Reportage on 'Indirect Talks' in Geneva

Talks Resume 12 May

BK121551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan resumed in Geneva today after the weekend holidays. The special representative of the UN secretary general, Diego Cordovez, met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and other members of his delegation this morning. They held talks on the more important parts of the 9-point draft of the fourth instrument of the proposed comprehensive settlement to the Afghanistan issue. Cordovez was to meet with the Kabul administration's foreign minister, Shah Mohammad Dost, in the afternoon.

According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN, Cordovez is expected to urge the Kabul administration's delegation to respond decisively to his proposals about the revised draft of the fourth instrument. Pakistan has already expressed positive and comprehensive reaction on all the clauses of the revised draft, while the reaction of the Soviet-installed Kabul administration is still awaited. A spokesman of the Pakistani delegation told APP that the success of the present round of talks depends on the Kabul administration's reaction and on how far the changes in the fourth instrument of the draft of the proposed comprehensive settlement is mutually accepted. The spokesman said that the present talks at this point can be advanced only after a reply from the foreign minister of the Kabul administration.

DAWN: DRA Leadership Change Based on Tribal Issues

GF121121 Karachi DAWN in English 8 May 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Events in Kabul"]

[Text] How should one read the signals coming from Kabul? Over the past half-decade the optimists gazing in the crystal ball of Afghanistan's internal developments have had a bad time. The reaction, therefore, to Babrak Karmal's resignation as party-boss has been extremely cautious. It all began with reading tea-leaves in the style of old Kremlin-watchers: the leader conspicuously absented himself at the 8th anniversary of the Communist Revolution in Afghanistan; the Soviet party newspaper *PRAVDA* on that occasion criticised his government for having fallen short of important targets of social reform; then came the elevation of Khad [state intelligence service] chief, young Major-General Najibullah, to the post of party Secretary-General. Seen against the background of the Soviet paradigm, a president is a mere figure-head if he is not also the party-boss. Read with this floss, the new scenario represents the downfall of Babrak Karmal and the elevation to supreme power of a young candidate who will follow more closely the Soviet prescription, whatever that may be.

Is there in all this a signal from Moscow that should uplift the doves? A significant development at the 7th proximity talks at Geneva is that the Kabul delegation is no longer insisting on direct dialogue, a condition of foreclosure applied by Babrak Karmal who wished to be recognised before the discussion of the fourth instrument on Soviet withdrawal. But no one is falling for such overtures any longer, especially as the present Geneva round is expected to throw up a more or less final picture of positions.

Yet, what has happened in Kabul denotes change and one must study that even if it means nothing in the context of resolution of the international crisis. When Taraki was killed by Hafizullah Amin, it was a hardline communist Pashtun replacing a moderate communist Pashtun. The facile interpretation that was immediately applied to that change in leadership was that a Khalq ideologue closer to Moscow had now assumed control. But it turned out to be otherwise. The Soviets not only did not like Amin, they intervened to prevent an alleged betrayal of the revolution. The Khalq was replaced by Parcham at the apex of power and the infighting Pashtuns were replaced by a moderate upper-class Tajik, Babrak Karmal.

Now the replacement of Karmal may mean a number of things: It could be an inability on the part of the leader to adjust to the Gorbachev team at the Kremlin, recalling the disorder in Eastern Europe after Khruschev changed the Stalinist style of ruling the satellites; it could even be the Kremlin adjustment to realities in Afghanistan. Pashtuns are the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan and take reluctantly to someone else ruling them despite their own 'tarboor-wali' [in the literal sense, bitter feuds between cousins] custom of internecine warfare.

Moreover, the war in Afghanistan is predominantly a war against the Pashtuns, and Najibullah a Pashtun, has appeared to observers to be handling them better than Babrak Karmal. The change in Kabul is no doubt a readjustment to remedy the complications of governance and control.

NEPAL

Reportage on Elections for National Parliament

Polling 'Held Peacefully'

BK121437 Katmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 12 May 86

[Excerpts] General elections for 108 out of 112 seats to the Rashtriya Panchayat [national parliament] were held peacefully in 73 districts of the Kingdom today. Voters throughout the Kingdom exercised their franchise from 0800 to 1700 today. Eleven thousand six hundred and ninety-four polling centers and subcenters were set up for the elections. Nine thousand four hundred and twenty-five candidates are contesting the elections.

About 100,000 personnel were engaged to help conduct elections peacefully and to maintain law and order throughout the Kingdom. Arrangements have been made for the ballot boxes to be brought safely to the returning offices at the 73 district headquarters and as soon as all the boxes arrive counting will start. Once the counting is complete the results will be announced, according to law.

According to the Election Commission, repolling will take in 15 polling centers and subcenters.

Meanwhile, RSS [RASHTRIYA SAMACHAR SAMITY – national news agency] says that seven people were injured in clashes in (Bakhira) and [name indistinct] centers. They are reported to be undergoing treatment in the hospital.

Voting Resumes 13 May

BK130759 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 13 May 86

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, May 13 (AFP) — Voting in Nepal's general election resumed Tuesday at seven of the 26 polling centers where it was halted Monday night following minor clashes between rival supporters, an election official said. The remaining 19 centers were to reopen Wednesday to complete the polling which began Monday morning in 73 of the country's 75 districts, the official said.

A total of nine people were reported injured in the violence, including two who sustained bullet wounds when police opened fire to break up a clash at Katkataiya in the Mahotari District.

Other districts in which voting was interrupted are Parbat, Sunsari, Sirha, Saptari, Bhaktapur, Sindhupalchowk, Kabhre, Nuwakot, Dhanukha and Makwanpur, according to an official statement issued Monday night.

Meanwhile, several candidates, including Padma Thakurathi in southwestern Kanchanpur District and former prime minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, accused district officials of interfering in Monday's polling. They charged that the officials had tampered with ballot boxes while they were being transported to administrative centers, saying that polling agents were not allowed to accompany the boxes.

A senior government spokesman denied the charges, saying that district administrations had been strictly ordered to play an impartial role during and after the election. "Out of the 11,694 polling booths in the 73 districts, the disturbances at some places because of personal rivalries between the candidates are but natural," he added.

Vote counting had already begun Tuesday at several major district headquarters, including Katmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, and officials were due to begin announcing results later in the day, an official source said.

Turnout at the polls Monday was estimated by officials at more than 65 per cent of the 8.7 million people eligible to vote in the 73 districts. Voting in the remaining two districts was postponed until later this month because two candidates died during the election campaign. One was killed in a road accident and the other died of cancer.

Monday's election was seen as a crucial test of the country's 25-year-old partyless Panchayat system as the government has maintained that it has popular support while the opposition says people want the freedom to choose a party-based system.

Political observers here predicted that new faces would constitute more than 55 per cent of the 112 members elected to the national Panchayat (parliament). Most voters went to the polls with a hope that new members with anti-Panchayat leanings would help bring about changes in the Nepalese socio-economic and political situation, the observers said.

Some districts return two candidates and, in addition to the 112 elected Panchayat members, King Birendra appoints 28.

SRI LANKA

India's Dixit, President Discuss Tamil Issue

BK130358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 May 86

[Excerpts] A Sri Lankan customs official is reported to have confessed for having planted the bomb that exploded aboard an Air Lanka's jetliner in Colombo last month.

Meanwhile, India has called upon Sri Lanka to lend momentum to the discussions on the ethnic issue to arrive at an early settlement. This was conveyed to the Sri Lankan president by the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, when he called on Mr Jayewardene in Colombo yesterday.

He conveyed India's concern at the sufferings inflicted on civilians in the continuing violence in the island.

Our Colombo correspondent, Piabon Majumder, reports that Mr Dixit is likely to have further discussions on the details of the Sri Lankan proposals with the concerned ministers.

Security Minister Denies Visiting Israel

BK121145 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali denied Indian press reports that he had been to Israel last week. Mr Athulathmudali said that he had been to Britain and was away for 3 nights.

THE HINDU newspaper had said that the minister was reported to have gone to Israel on a secret mission to get more support for an all out military offensive against Tamil militants in the Jaffna peninsula. On 10 May, another journalist wrote in the same newspaper that the minister was on a secret trip to Israel on an undisclosed mission.

Meanwhile, Lands and Mahaweli Minister Gamini Dissanayake is paying an official visit to Cuba.

Athulathmudali Terms Maneuvers 'Normal' Rotation

BK130529 Hong Kong AFP in English 0509 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Colombo, May 13 (AFP — The Sri Lankan Government denied Tuesday that troops headed north were intended for a major offensive against militant Tamil separatists there. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that current troop movements were the normal turn-around of soldiers and had nothing to do with any planned offensive.

He discounted travellers' reports that an "unusual" member of armoured vehicles had moved up north in the last few days. "If we were planning an offensive we would have moved the troops and vehicles by other means and not so openly," Mr Athulathmudali said.

Residents in Jaffna and travellers to the north had reported that troops and armour were sighted heading for the Jaffna peninsula and inferred that the forces were preparing for a major offensive against militant separatists campaigning for an independent state.

Lieutenant-General Cyril Ranatunge, chief of the Joint Operations Command, the main anti-guerrilla headquarters, said that some troops had been in the north for 14 months and others were being replaced in what he said was a routine rotation.

He admitted troops were being strengthened with new equipment but described this as a natural development.

Tamil Refugees Return from Indian Camps

BK121143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] More refugees are continuing to return to Sri Lanka from the Indian refugee camps. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that 25 Tamil refugees returned to Mannar, northwest of Sri Lanka, by boat on Saturday morning. The 25 comprised 7 men, 7 women and 11 children.

Majlis Deputies Denounce Economic Summit in Tokyo

GF130920 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian begins live coverage of Majlis proceedings at 0435 GMT on 13 May. Reception is good to fair. The session begins with a recitation from the Koran and the announcement of the day's agenda by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani; the agenda includes the election of candidates to rural Islamic councils.

The first pre-agenda speaker at 0456 GMT is Arbabi, the Chah Bahar deputy. He denounces the summit of seven industrialized nations in Tokyo, the bombing of residential areas in Tripoli and Banghazi, and the reduction of oil prices, which are "an indication of the fact that world oppression wishes to continue its plunder of the Third World. Unfortunately, the Arab world seems to be treading the same path alongside the world oppressors in the guzzling of resources endowed on Muslims and the oppressed countries. The Tokyo summit was convened for a unanimous reduction of oil prices in an attempt to strike against the interests of the Islamic revolution of Iran. This reduction was tailored to benefit only the Western bloc countries. No profits accrue to Third World countries, and in fact world exploitation presented a bright outlook to the developed industrial nations regarding future political and economic developments." He adds the "United States and Great Britain are using this income for attacks on Muslim cities with modern armaments and are brutally taking innocent lives on flimsy and imaginary pretexts. Are not the hands of reactionary Arabs stained with the callous murder of the people of Libya and Palestine?" He says that "just as the Islamic revolution of Iran shattered the balance of power in the area and neutralized scores of plots, it can also foil the consecutive nefarious designs of world oppression by victory over the tottering enemy." He then reports on problems of his constituency.

The second pre-agenda speaker, Savehi from Kerman, comes to the podium at 0505 GMT. He also criticizes the participants of the conference of seven industrialized nations, their plots for an economic embargo, their imposition of a war on the Muslim Iranian nation, and "today's plot or scenario which cannot have any effect on the Muslim and revolutionary people of fraternal Libya." Addressing the United States, he continues, "you could not even enlist the support of your own allies for committing aggression against Libya. What hopes do you have that permit you to issue resolutions? These plots no longer have any effect on the Muslims of the world. Regarding the oil plot, I should say that our country is a fasting nation." He then speaks about Ramadan. "The time is near when mercenaries and the sold-out elements of oppression in the area will have their faces blackened and will reach their nemesis at the hands of the Muslim people of the region." He then reports on domestic issues.

The entire session revolves around the elections to rural Islamic councils, problems of provincial districts, and voting for or against the motions proposed.

The session then adjourns at 0805 GMT when Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani announces that the next session will be held on Thursday 15 May at 0430 GMT.

Gulf Countries Should Reconsider Ties With U.S.

GF130748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 May 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "U.S. Congress Opposition to the Sale of Arms to the Saudi Regime"]

[Text] No new development has emerged since the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate rejected Reagan's proposal last week for the sale of $354 million in armaments to Saudi Arabia, even though U.S. officials earlier expressed optimism on the dispatch of equipment to Saudi Arabia and had endorsed Reagan's insistence on this issue.

It all began in the first week of April, when Reagan informed the U.S. Congress of his intention to formulate a military accord with Saudi Arabia amounting to $354 million. This included the provision of 1,000 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, 800 surface-to-air Stinger missiles, and 100 Harpoon missiles.

According to U.S. regulations, Congress had 30 days to make a decision on accepting or rejecting this plan. While this was being debated in the U.S. Congress, Richard Murphy endeavored to enlist the support of [House] representatives by stating that the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia was not connected to the Arab-Israeli issue, but was in fact for the protection of U.S. military and economic interests in the Persian Gulf. In a letter aimed at convincing the Congress to support this plan, Shultz called this a move for halting the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war into Saudi Arabia and to lend credence to U.S. support of its allies. Despite the insistence and persuasion of the Reagan administration, the House of Representatives and the Senate announced their opposition to Reagan's scheme, with 356 votes against the 62 votes in favor, and 73 votes against the 22 votes in favor, respectively.

According to U.S. law, Reagan can veto the Senate's rejection. But in the face of opposition from two-thirds of the representatives, the president will have no other option than to accept the congressional decision. In view of the dissenting votes, there is little chance that Reagan will succeed in implementing his proposal, unless positive results are obtained by alternate means, such as efforts to negotiate with the representatives, or if certain changes are made in the details, terms and conditions of the armaments, or in the conditions prevailing in the region.

In any case, apart from the above factors, the views of the opponents indicate that there is considerable apprehension concerning the access of Muslim nations to such armaments, especially to surface-to-air Stinger missiles which can be transported by one person and can down aircraft at an altitude of 5 miles.

Some observers believe that if Reagan is unable to forge such a pact with the Saudi regime — who Washington circles have repeatedly considered a loyal friend and supporter of the United States — such a failure will be tantamount to a failure of Reagan's policy in the region. Rejection of the proposal to provide such weaponry to a regime which has in practice affirmed its loyalty to U.S. interests indicates, in other words, the diffidence in the future stability of this regime, of regimes which have mobilized all their efforts for the protection of U.S. interests, and the safeguarding of the existence of the Zionist regime.

What is interesting is that the growth of Islamic resurgence in the area, the awakening of nations for the retrieval of their long-lost rights, and the emergence of the power and force of Islamic movements which have belied the prevalent assumptions and calculations of the imperialists have made them apprehensive on all fronts. Because Washington had provided sophisticated arms to its allies and loyal supporters with immense generosity and without any qualms or doubts, much of its present anxiety and dread regarding the future outlook is due to the victory of the Islamic revolution and the sagas of heroism and resistance of the Muslim Iranian nation. The Zionists in the U.S. Administration have constantly tried to alleviate this anxiety by playing up the opposition to the Zionist regime of the regimes that are allies of Washington and the need for Israeli military preponderance vis-a-vis neighboring countries.

However, as the Western authorities have stated, the trend of developments in the past decade has proved that such arms have never been used by these regimes against the Zionist regime or against U.S. interests. Even at a time when Israel had exacerbated the anti-Zionist feeling in the Muslim nations of the region by its aggression and atrocities, these regimes had refrained from taking any steps in this regard, and had by their inertia and silence added fuel to fire. Hence it is too farfetched to even imagine the possibility of using these sophisticated arms against Israel or the United States.

In any case, it is appropriate to mention that governments which have during their tenure of office endeavored to consign the potential and resources of the oppressed Muslim nations of the region to lavish pillage and plunder on the pretext of safeguarding the interests of world oppression, should realistically look at the situation concerning the new developments in the region and should not link their future with brutal Western interests.

Further Reportage on Visit of Syria's Al-Shar'

Meets With Khamene'i

LD121735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation, met with President Khamene'i this afternoon. During the meeting, the Syrian foreign minister conveyed a kind message from President al-Asad and his congratulations on the coming of Ramadan. He stressed the importance of further unity between Iran and Syria. The foreign minister added: Syria has always been, and will be, a defender and supporter of Iran in all international circles.

He stressed: Today, the Iraqi people realize that progressive Arab countries do not endorse Saddam's regime. This is good proof of the justification of Iran's struggle against a regime that started the war and which has been hostile and belligerent toward the Islamic revolution from the start.

Thanking him for President al-Asad's warm and kind message and the friendly stance of the Syrian revolutionary government and nation, and expressing congratulations for the coming of Ramadan, President Khamene'i stressed the importance of further unity between the two countries.

Meets With Musavi, Velayati

LD121742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Prime Minister Musavi this afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by the foreign minister and the prime minister's political deputy, the two countries' policies regarding the region were discussed.

Stressing his country's willingness to hold more talks on developments in the Middle East, the Syrian foreign minister emphasized Iran's righteous role in the imposed war. Thanking him for the Syrian Government's stand, Musavi called such talks beneficial. He stressed the importance of coordination between the two governments regarding mutual policies toward enemies.

During a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, the Syrian guest stressed the sincere and brotherly relations between the two countries. He described the good relations as grounds for cooperation and coordination between the two countries on the international scene. While submitting a report on the situation in the region, he referred to the United States' threats against Iran, Syria, and Libya and the threats made by the Zionist regime against Syria. He stressed the importance of further unity among the three countries in view of these threats.

Reporting on his trip to Libya, Velayati stressed the good relations between the two countries and the need for further cooperation in the struggle against common enemies. According to our correspondent's report, after meeting our country's high-ranking officials the Syrian foreign minister left Tehran this afternoon.

Envoy to Syria Confers With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD120606 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] May 12, IRNA — The new Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Syria, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, met and talked with Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday.

During the meeting the Majlis speaker called for expansion of economic and diplomatic relations between Iran and Syria and strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

President Lauds Army's Achievements

LD121051 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i speaking to the personnel of the Joint Staff at morning ceremony here Monday said that in post revolutionary period the Iranian Army has made great achievements. The ceremony was attended by the head of the Joint Staff Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi.

Further in his speech he said that one of the most outstanding characteristics of the post-revolutionary army is its strong faith in God and its revolutionary attitude.

The president described the changes in the Armed Forces as astonishing and highly significant and added that there was still a long way to go. He further praised the bravery of the Armed Forces personnel in combating the enemy.

Musavi on Efforts To Contact Nationals Abroad

LD130934 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — All those Iranians abroad with no criminal records who accept and respect the Islamic Republic system an' goals of the Iranian nation, can return to the country, said Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi here Tuesday.

Prime Minister Musavi, speaking in a press conference, added that efforts have been made to establish contacts with the Iranians abroad. He said the number of Iranians abroad is estimated to be between one to two millions. Since after the revolution a number of these people have fled the country illegaly, an exact figure is not available, he added.

At present the Ministries of Ershad-e Islami, Information and Foreign Affairs are drawing up a comprehensive plan to attract these people, the premier added. As a measure in this respect, the Iranian Embassies abroad have been instructed to be responsive to these people and help them to free themselves from the humiliation in Western countries.

More on the status of certain Iranians abroad, the prime minister said some of them have been living in undesirable conditions and even a number of them, highly specialized Iranians, are living in bad conditions and doing blue collar works.

He added that it is important to offset the poisonous propaganda of the counterrevolutionaries abroad who have created the impression that Iranians abroad could not return to Iran. The objective of the government, he stressed, is to annul such propaganda.

The Ministry of Ershad-e Islami is preparing tours for the Iranians abroad to visit Iran on their own expense and visit their families and find for themselves the falsity of anti-Islamic revolution propaganda, Prime Minister Musavi added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses IRGC Naval Units

GF121456 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 May 86 p 19

[Text] We should not think that just because we possess a stronger Navy than others in the Persian Gulf that we do not need a people's popular movement at sea. In view of the importance the sea holds for our future, we cannot neglect it. Therefore, the maritime industry of the Guards Corps should be strengthened and researchers should involve themselves in this work.

These remarks were made yesterday by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, while addressing naval and amphibious units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]. He advised them to sincerely cooperate with the naval forces, adding that the presence of these two forces will further raise our naval strength.

The representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council, while referring to the fact that a naval force in the Persian Gulf is of great importance, said: If we have a strong naval force in the Persian Gulf we can safeguard the region and neutralize the plots which are being hatched in the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his pleasure at the formation of the IRGC naval units. He said: The job of setting up an IRGC naval unit started from scratch and this method of working ensures independence. This is very important.

The speaker of the Majlis added: It is possible that the superpowers could easily defend themselves against the conventional capabilities that they themselves have placed in our hands, but they are impotent when confronted with the Hezbollahi forces and other potentials which are out of their reach.

He added: You may, with your initiatives, gradually conquer the broad seas and they will remain impotent against you, as has happened in the land war. No one can tell us that we should go to war or should accept peace; that we should accept these terms or not accept those terms. All this is due to the self-sufficiency which we have achieved in manpower and other potentialities. He stressed the fact that we should create the same situation at sea. We should not think that just because we have a stronger Navy than others in the Persian Gulf that we do not need a popular people's movement at sea. Of course, we have a very powerful Navy which has served us well in the past and has kept up its standards throughout the war. But that is a traditional force and there is a problem of dependence on it. As long as we do not compromise our principles, we must keep our Navy up to those standards which we have kept so far. However, the sea holds much more importance for us and we must increase our sea power even though we are now the strongest naval power in the region. He said that some of our warriors are not satisfied with their activities which are limited to the sea and want to go to the fronts which are hotter than the sea fronts. This is wrong. The sea is a most sensitive front and has more importance.

The Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, our southern shores, and to some extent our northern shores are very important areas. The Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf are not important only for us. They are important for the whole world. A major part of the world's riches can be found here. The reactionaries of the region are an institution for hatching plots at a time when a major part of the world's economy is provided by this region.

The speaker of the Majlis, while referring to the economic resources in this region, said that these are very important. Our ports are vital to our country and should be safeguarded. It goes without saying that the areas of your operations are very important and your presence will complement the naval forces.

The imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council referred to the long services rendered by the Navy and said that it has gained much experience and knowledge in maritime

affairs. He advised the commander of the IRGC naval units to cooperate sincerely with the Navy of the Islamic Republic. He praised the services rendered by the IRGC naval and amphibious units in the Badr, Khaybar, and especially the "Val-Fajr-8" operations.

An account of the activities of the IRGC naval and amphibious units was given to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani during this meeting.

Sheykh ol-Eslam: Ties With Sweden, Hungary 'Good'

LD111658 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam said here Sunday that Sweden and Hungary have rather good positions vis-a-vis Iran. The deputy minister who returned Saturday from a six-day tour to Sweden and Hungary said he had discussed international conventions governing war with the Swedish officials.

Speaking to a press conference, Sheykh ol-Eslam said he had also met officials from 'Sipiri' organization which is responsible for defending the internationally-accepted conventions. The Sipiri officials had wanted to investigate Iraqi violation of international laws, he added.

Sheykh ol-Eslam's talks in Hungary had covered bilateral relations, international peace, disarmament as well as the recent U.S. attack on Libya, he said.

Price Freeze Decreed on Manufactured Goods Contracts

LD131301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] According to decisions taken during today's session of the Economic Mobilization Headquarters, on the basis of the organization's legal standards for the protection of consumers and producers and in order to prevent irrational price rises, all manufacturing units must observe the prices set by that organization. The signing of any form of contract for the sale of goods by manufacturing units, which might in any way lead to price fixing, is declared illegal, null and void.

The instructions issued by the Commerce Ministry regarding the regulations covering the distribution of domestic products are still in force.

The publication of this announcement in the media is considered as an official decree. Those not observing pricing and distribution regulations will be prosecuted.

Trade Figures For Past Year Released

LD111007 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — A report on foreign trade of the country, during the past Iranian year (ended March) released here Sunday, said that a total of 17.37 million tons of goods worth 1,089 billion rials (U.S. dlrs. 13.5 billion) arrived in the country.

The goods imported registered a 13 percent decline in terms of the value when compared to the goods imported during the preceding year.

Meanwhile during the year a total of 526,000 tons of non-oil goods worth 41 billion rials (U.S. dlrs. 500 million) were exported, up by 98 percent in terms of weight and 25 percent in terms of value in comparison to the preceding year.

There was an increase of 37 percent in value of exported hand-woven carpets compared to the previous year and it made up for 24 percent of the total volume of non-oil exports, about 11 billion rials (U.S. dlrs. 120 million), the highest figure in the exports items. Pistachio, hide and cotton were next major items in the list.

As for the passengers, a total of 1,192,448 passengers arrived in the country out of which 369,692 were foreigners. Meanwhile, some 1,237,954 passengers, 877,076 of whom were Iranians, left the country.

The number of trucks bringing goods into the country were reported to be 235,045 which imported 3,460,000 tons of goods. At the same time 2,688 trucks exported total 41,659 tons of goods.

50 Million Rials Allocated for Flood Relief

LD071030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 May 86

[Excerpt] According to the Khorramabad Central News Unit, following the floods in Lorestan Province, which destroyed some farms and livestock in the area, Prime Minister Musavi allocated 50 million rials for preliminary relief work for the victims.

According to this report, all the villages in Lorestan that had been surrounded by flood water are clear now. Relief operations and transport of food to the victims continue.

Economists Advocate Expansion of Non-Oil Exports

GF080640 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] According to our correspondent, our country's economic experts — in their analysis of the effects and repercussions of the reduction of oil prices on the country's economy — have proposed that all the resources of the country in the fields of agriculture, mines, and industry should be mustered and mobilized for an expansion of non-oil commodities.

In a report entitled, "An Assessment of the Practical Expansion of Our Country's Industrial and Traditional Exports," presented to the 14th session of the National Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines regarding the survey of untapped potential in the fields of agriculture, mines, and industry, the proper development and utilization of these resources was advocated. According to this report, only 32 percent of arable land and 21 percent of the usable water resources are being utilized in the field of agriculture. This should be increased and expanded.

In the field of metallic and non-metallic minerals, Iran is the fifth richest country in the field of minerals and proper facilities for the extraction of the minerals should be provided.

In industry, only 51 percent of the country's larger factories were operational suring the past year and optimun use is not being made of the country's technical know-how and expertise. Possible sources of the country's entrepreneurial potential have remained untapped.

The report adds: The per capita income in industry is one-fifth of the per capita income in the services department, and the growth of investment in the industrial sector amounts to only one-third of the investment in the services department. It is essential that compensatory measures be implemented in order to eliminate (?bottlenecks) in this department.

The report states that non-oil exports increased by 25 percent in the past year as compared to those in 1984, and it is predicted that they will rise by 20 to 50 percent in the current year and will reach $600 million.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,468

LD121729 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Monday that exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts Sunday as a result of which Iraqi mortar and artillery fire was silenced and several enemy bunkers demolished. A number of Iraqi soldiers were also killed or wounded.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2468 says that Iraqi forces supported by helicopter gunships and artillery fire launched an offensive against Iranian positions in (Lolan) at 03:30 hours GMT Sunday but confronted firm resistance of Iranian Muslim combatants. Battle still continues in the area.

Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces on Iraqi positions in the western fronts destroyed five bunkers and observation posts and killed or wounded a number of their soldiers, says the communique.

Iraqi tanks in Kani-Sheykh and Halaleh were shelled and sustained casualties and damage by Iranian artillery fire. In Zobeydah and Abadan, artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces inflicted casualties and damage on Iraqi troops, according to the communique.

Iraqi Port Hit

LD121923 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — Long range artillery fire of Muslim forces of Iran hit Iraq's Umm Qasr port installations at 10:30 hour (07:00 hours GMT) Monday in retaliation for the recent Iraqi aggressions.

Meanwhile, Khatam ol-Anbiya' joint headquarters of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps said that Iranian Muslim combatants repulsed two Iraqi counter-attacks in Bejliyeh and Sharhani Monday, killing or wounding hundreds of Iraqi soldiers and capturing a number of others. One combat and two infantry battalions of Iraqi forces were smashed and over 12 tanks together with scores of personnel carriers of theirs demolished during the counter-offensives, the headquarters said.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Hq. said Iranian jet fighters bombed concentration center of Iraqi armoured units and enemy command headquarters north of Faqqeh Sunday and Monday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them. The Iranian planes which made the raids at 14:00 GMT Sunday and 14:30 GMT Monday all returned to their bases safely, according to the headquarters. Iranian Muslim combatants are now purging the region from the rest of defeated Iraqi troops, the headquarters concluded.

Faqqeh Sector Bombed 13 May

GF130443 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that at 0525 [0155 GMT] this morning the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force jetfighters intensively bombed the enemy's armored divisions in the Faqqeh operational sector. According to this report, heavy casualties were inflicted on the Zionist enemy. This report states that the Iranian jetfighters returned safely to their bases after these operations.

Further Details Faqqeh Operation

LD131155 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters in a series of successful operations bombarded concentration centers of Iraqi armored hardware and equipment in Faqqeh operational region three times Tuesday, according to Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters Tuesday. The headquarters said the Iranian planes all returned to their bases safely after successfully making the raids at 05:25, 08:25 and 09:35 (01:55, 04:55 and 06:05 GMT).

The raids follow victories of Iranian Muslim combatants over Iraqi troops in Faqqeh. Heavy fighting has been reported in the area since early May. Faqqeh is about 125 km northwest of provincial capital city of Ahvaz in Iran's southern front. Iraq's Fourth Corp faces Muslim combatants in the area.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' is the joint operational headquarters of the army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces "crushed" an Iraqi attack in the northern Hajj 'Umran area 14 May, killing 200 Iraqis and downing seven Iraqi helicopters, Iran announced in military statements reported by IRNA. Further south, Iranian warplanes launched raids on Iraqi armored vehicles in the Faqqeh sector 14 May, according to IRNA. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that an Iranian F-4 was downed in the East Maysan sector 13 May, but an Iranian spokesman cited by IRNA "categorically" denied this claim, asserting that all Iranian planes returned safely from raids in the Faqqeh sector that day.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met with visiting Jordanian King Husayn 13 May for talks that covered Iraq's "sound situation" in the face of the "criminal Iranian aggression," Baghdad radio reported. The two leaders also discussed bilateral relations and the Arab situation.

As for the Gulf, a Tehran radio commentary maintained that the U. S. statement of concern about attacks on shipping is designed to prepare the political ground for launching "aggressive contingency measures" against Iran.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, in an Independence Day interview with IDF radio, asserted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has recently committed "cardinal mistakes." Asked about Syria's involvement in the 17 April attempt to blow up an El Al plane, Peres said the Syrians "have denied that this decision was made by the central government." A katyusha rocket attack hit the Galilee panhandle 13 May, injuring three people, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that security forces think the missiles were fired from an area outside Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated in a 12 May speech carried by JANA that the Tokyo summit was a failure and that economic sanctions against Libya will rebound on the states which have imposed them. Sanctions provide Libya with an opportunity to end its economic dependence on the capitalist markets of Europe and Japan, to dispense with "false" consumer products, and to become self-sufficient in agricultural production, Al-Qadhdhafi maintained.

As for the row with Spain over alleged Libyan links with Spanish extreme right-wing elements, Tripoli radio said the Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the Spanish ambassador to inform him of Libya's "absolute denial" of Spanish media reports on the issue. A commentary by JANA's political editor asserted that Spain has chosen to "fabricate" the story as a result of its "full partiality to the U.S. hostile stand." In another development affecting Libyan-Spanish relations, AFP noted that members of the "Call of Jesus" group held by the Spanish authorities have admitted receiving money and orders from the Libyan People's Bureau in Madrid.

In Havana, Libyan special envoy 'Ali Hudayri stated that his talks with the Cuban authorities will cover "measures that will allow us to confront North American terrorism," according to the Spanish agency EFE.

PLO, Jordan, and Egypt

Commenting on King Husayn's recent meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Fatah deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir told the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* that the Jordanian monarch rejected Mubarak's proposal to hold a Jordanian-PLO summit under Egyptian auspices, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The PLO has little hope of resuming political cooperation with Jordan soon, he asserted, but it is "premature" to say that Mubarak's mediation efforts have failed.

Qatar-Bahrain

Qatar has told civil airlines that it is prohibiting air traffic over areas of dispute with Bahrain, particularly Fasht al-Dibal island, Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* reported. The airline companies were informed that the changes in civil air routes are due to military air activities.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan lodged a strong protest with the DRA over a number of recent cross-border attacks by DRA forces that caused casualties inside Pakistan, Karachi radio reported. The protest concerned several recent air raids as well as a 13 May artillery attack that killed 14 people and wounded over 20 others in Kurram Agency.

As for the UN-sponsored Pakistani-Afghan indirect talks in Geneva, Karachi radio said progress is being made and more important issues are being discussed. A Pakistani spokesman cited by the radio noted that talks will be held on a timetable for withdrawal for foreign forces if a consensus is reached on the principles of the fourth instrument of the proposed comprehensive agreement.

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TASS Political News Analyst Interviews Najibullah

LD140654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0501 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 13, BAKHTAR — Revolutionary Afghanistan gives every support to the concept of a world without wars worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress, to the package of large-scale peace initiatives set forth by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev and directed at fully ridding the world of the unclear threat by the year 2000 and liquidating weapons of mass annihilation, it was stated by Comrade Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Replying to questions put by TASS political news analyst, he said that "the idea of creating an all-embracing system of international security is of an exceptional importance for teh destiny of peace. The Soviet proposals have evoked a widespread positive response in the world, especially in Asia, and their fulfillment would make it possible to turn our Asian Continent into a zone of lasting peace and goodneighbourliness."

"The supreme aim of our foreign policy is to ensure for the Afghan people a possibility to build a new life in conditions of peace and freedom," Comrade Najib went on. "This aim also determines the core of the country's foreign policy course which is being worked out by the PDPA and is based on principles of friendship of peoples, peaceful coexistence, nonalignment and struggle for peace and security. Vigorous efforts to achieve the speediest settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, which would ensure a real cessation and a reliable non-resumption of armed interference in the internal affairs of our sovereign country constitute one of the most important directions of this course. I think it is especially important to repeat this again today when a particularly important stage is beginning at the talks which we are conducting in Geneva with Pakistan through the personal representative of the United Nations secretary general. We are convinced that a just settlement is possible."

"What is necessary for this possibility to become a reality? Only one thing: political will, a responsible, realistic approach by those circles in the West whose zeal has created the 'Afghan problem.' But what attracts attention is the fact that the extent and intensity of the undeclared war unleashed against the DRA by imperialism and regional reaction are not diminishing and attempts at rude interference in our affairs are not ceasing but, on the contrary, they are becoming ever more vigorous."

"How else can one assess Washington's decision to supply the bandit formations that intrude into Afghanistan from outside with the most modern 'Stinger' rockets, which, as evidenced by the American press itself, the United States supplies only to its 'closest allies'? Also in the same category with such facts are the unceasing attempts in the west to create out of the anti-Afghan groupings that have ensconced themselves abroad a sort of 'joint alliance' which would serve as a sort of headquarters for the export of counterrevolution."

One gathers the impression that it is of benefit to certain imperialist circles to keep the seat of tension in our region and that as soon as some signs indicating a possible headway towards a just solution to the 'Afghan problem' began to show when those circles which count on power-political devices and imperial ultimatums, and not on talks, seek with redoubled zeal to blow up and reverse the positive process. Such a policy, which cannot but give rise to concern, fully fits into the channel of the Washington-constructed so-called "strategy of neo-globalism" the architects of which declare almost the entire world to be a "sphere of U.S. vital interests" and try everywhere — from Libya to Nicaragua from Afghanistan to Kampuchea — to implant ways suitable and advantageous to them by means of force, terror and blackmail.

Touching upon the main tasks of the PDPA Central Committee in the field of domestic policy, Comrade Najib pointed out that Afghan society confidently builds its life on the principles of special justice, democracy and progress. The party, he went on to say, is actively steering a course towards accelerating cardinal transformations in all spheres of the country's life. About 320,000 landless and land-hungry families have been provided with more than 340,000 hectares of land as a result of the land-and-water reform. The national industry is developing: the production of building materials, for example, has grown ten-fold over five years, that of electric power — by 48 percent, cement by 10 per cent, and natural gas by 11 per cent. The first Afghan five-year plan period which began in March this year will see the construction of more than 130 new national economic facilities with the economic and technical assistance of the USSR. The main sections for the country's development in 1986-1991 have been also elaborated. Of course, Comrade Najib said, our successes would have been much greater were it not for the continuing aggression against the DRA, the state has to spend on defence a half of the budget while the material damage inflicted upon the country's national economy by counterrevolutionary bands is estimated at a huge sum of 45,000 million afghanis.

The essence, the pivot of our domestic policy today is to broaden the social basis of the revolution in every way and actively to draw as wide sections of population as possible into one accomplishment of tasks of nationwide scope, Comrade Najib emphasised. Much has already been done in that direction. The ranks of mass socio-political organizations are swelling, and fist of all those of the National Fatherland Front which now has about 760,000 members. The Revolutionary Council of the DRA and the Council of Ministers of the Republic have been considerably enlarged as a result of inviting representatives of various sections of population. During elections held in many provinces of the country, representatives of all classes and all sections of the population — members of the party and non-party people, men and women, workers, peasants, craftsmen, ministers of religion, and authoritative figures of tribes, intellectuals, and representatives of petty bourgeoisie — have been elected to local government bodies — jirghas.

The drafting of a new constitution is going on successfully. The nationalities policy is being refined — the party considers it to be its duty to show everyday concern for all nations, nationalities and tribes of the country. Naturally, the process of expansion of the social foundation of the new system is not an easy or smooth-running process. However, even today it is obvious that the guidelines have been chosen correctly and that the policy pursued by the peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan is met with approval by the broadest sections of the population.

One of the most important tasks of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is to strengthen the country's Armed Forces so that they live up to the tasks set forth by the national-democratic revolution. Our revolutionary army is young, but it already has both combat experience and glorious traditions.

These are the traditions of those who routed not so long ago a major bandit stronghold in Khowst District in the mountains in south-east Afghanistan, destroying more than 2,000 Dushmans (counterrevolutionaries) armed with rockets, anti-aircraft systems for use in mountains and other modern weapon systems of U.S. and British makes, those who staunchly guard the highways and tunnels of Salang, those who carry out operations to ensure the inviolability of our state frontiers. An active part in combatting counterrevolutionary forces is played by mobile units of the Ministry of State Security, units of people's militia and territorial forces of tribesmen. In the course of the fighting against Dushman forces — nearly 200 bands comprising over 30,000 hirelings trained and armed abroad were routed in the country in 1985 alone — the warcraft of our men and officers is developing and their morale is growing stronger. We are setting before the arms the task of ensuring a breakthrough in the battle against counterrevolutionary forces, and this plan shall be achieved!

Eight years ago, when the party hoisted the banner of the April Revolution, it comprised 18,000 people. Now the membership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan stands at 155,100 members and candidate members. The experience of the party's political work among the masses has grown immensely, and its authority is on the rise.

And this is only natural — for members of the party are always in places where the situation is more difficult and more dangerous — as Comrade Babrak Karmal put aptly during the 17th plenary meeting of the PDPA Central Committee. Almost 65 per cent of the party members are under arms, and we are proud to say that the PDPA is a fighting party.

"All our rich and hard-earned experience shows that major and complex problems facing the party and the country call for strengthening in every way the monolithic cohesion of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, unity between word and deed, strengthening links between the party and all strata of the population in the country, and persistently improving people's life. The people of Afghanistan believe the party, ardently support the ideals of the revolution — our paramount task is to back up this support by active, unflagging organisational and political work in the masses. Time is ripe for actions — actions that will be concrete, decisive and fruitful exclamation one should work so that the entire population of the country. on becoming aware of the prospects opened before them by the revolution, should firmly stand guard over the revolutionary gains.

"The strength of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan lies in inviolable unity and cohesion, in unbreakable and durable friendship with the party of great Lenin which gives the world truly inspiring examples of the struggle for peace. Freedom and people's happiness," Comrade Najib said in conclusion.

"We are deeply grateful to the heroic and generous Soviet people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and its leadership for the great, selfless and genuinely internationalist assistance and support which they are rendering to our country in the cause of building a new life and defending the gains of [words indistinct] Revolution.

Pakistan Communist Party Congratulates Najibullah

GF131217 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] On the occasion of the election of Najib as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, a message of greetings has arrived from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Pakistan. A part of the message says:

Dear comrade. We can say with full confidence that your work and struggle in this responsible position of the party leadership will consolidate further your party as a vanguard of the toiling people of Afghanistan and will (?turn) the entire Afghan people against the unimposed, undeclared war of reaction and imperialism into a united state in defense of the achievements of the revolution and independence of the country.

We (?wish) that the fraternal relations presently existing between the PDPA and the Communist Party of Afghanistan will further expand and consolidate. We wish you great successes in your revolutionary and responsible work and struggle.

Indirect Talks in Geneva Continue Under UN Auspices

LD131856 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan is continuing in Geneva. The talks are chaired by Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN Secretary General. The Afghan delegation is headed by Shah Mohammad Dost, and the Pakistani delegation by Foreign Minister Sahabdzada Yaqub Ali Khan.

Election Commission Appoints 54 Tribunals

BK131607 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Election Commission has appointed 54 election tribunals for hearing and disposal of election petitions in connection with the just concluded Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] elections. It was published in a gazette notification in Dhaka today. The election tribunals consist of district and session judges.

As already reported, an election petition is to be presented to the Election Commission within 45 days after the publication in the official gazette of the name of the returned candidate. A petitioner may claim that the election of the returned candidate is void and that the petitioner or some other person has been duly elected or that the election as a whole is void.

Delhi: Opposition Calls For 6-Hour Strike

BK140907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 6-hour strike from 0600 in the morning to noon today was observed all over the country. The call for the strike was given by the 8-party alliance led by the Awami League to protest against the alleged large-scale rigging of the parliamentary elections held on the 7th of this month. The All India Radio Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that the hartal [strike] was spontaneous and total in Dhaka. All private and public vehicles were off the road. Shops and business establishments remained closed. However, government offices and banks functioned with poor attendance.

Meanwhile, the opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has accused the government of conspiring to elect candidates of the progovernment Jatiya Party in 34 constituencies where polling was suspended due to violence on the 7th of this month. She said that the government unilaterally declared two Jatiya Party candidates elected in Monday's repolling without giving adequate time and facilities to the rival candidate. With this, the Jatiya Party has won 136 seats out of the 300 in which elections were held. The opposition Awami League and its other partners of the 8-party alliance have bagged 90 seats.

Libyan Envoy Expresses Thanks for Support

BK131618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-'Ati Ibrahim al-'Ubaydi, special envoy of the Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, has appreciated Dhaka's support for the Libyan people during recent U.S. air raids on Tripoli. The envoy told a news conference in Dhaka today that his government is satisfied with the Bangladesh stand. He is now on a 2-day visit to Bangladesh.

Egyptian Daily Interviews Prime Minister Gandhi

PM131510 Cairo AL-AHRAM INTERNATIONAL EDITION in Arabic 10 May 86 p 3

[Interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by 'A'ishah 'Abd al-Ghaffar in New Delhi; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Prime Minister, how do you assess current Egyptian-Indian relations?
Answer: There was a time when Egyptian-Indian relations were not so good as one would wish but I believe that we are now on the right course. We can and we must develop closer relations. I hope that will be achieved soon.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, how do you assess the Middle East conflict in the light of the present state of Jordanian-Palestinian relations?
Answer: It is difficult to comment on that. We have heard of new initiatives. We believe that Jordan has been trying again but the real problem is getting to the root of the crisis. The Palestinians should have a homeland. It seems that we are making efforts without getting to the core of the problem. The problem will continue if the Palestinian right to a homeland is not taken into consideration.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, the situation in the Mediterranean has entered a dangerous phase since the U.S. intervention against Libya? What is your comment?
Answer: We are fully aware that there is nothing to justify that measure. We are firmly against terrorism. Perhaps we, the Indian nation, have suffered more than others from terrorism but there is no place for any form of terrorism here and we will do our best to fight terrorism. However, we believe that the U.S. reaction was not fully justified and we do not believe that such measures are effective in stopping terrorism. In fact, they open more scope for acts of terrorism and for terrorist pressure. For example, if we felt that those who commit terrorism here get their training in Pakistan, would that mean that we should send our bombers to Islamabad in an attempt to bomb Preident Ziaul Haq's residence? That would be ridiculous.

Question: How, in your view, can international terrorism be fought?
Answer: We have Sikh terrorists. We know that there are terrorists elsewhere in the world. The IRA is openly financed by elements in the United States. I mean that it is not done secretly. That is why this issue should be tackled as a whole. We cannot, in the face of danger, go and strike at individuals. That does not produce positive results.

Question: What do you mean by tackling the problem as a whole?
Answer: It will not be easy. We should first define what is meant by terrorism and we should all cooperate. We cannot have double standards in our approach to the problem. For example, we cannot manage, finance, and sponsor terrorism and train terrorists in one place and then complain about the existence of terrorism elsewhere. Terrorism should be tackled equally and with a united approach which should be part of developing international security.

Question: As chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, how do you assess the movement's recent achievements and have there been any negative aspects in its performace?
Answer: First let me tell you that the Nonaligned Movement has grown considerably and has become stronger in recent years. It probably has never been stronger or more united. There are problems, however, and the movement's biggest setback is perhaps its failure to achieve any success in promoting a solution to the Iraq-Iran war.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, what are your expectations for the Nonaligned Movement particularly since some people are of the opinion that there was a kind of conflict or confrontation between the movement and one of the two superpowers over the recent events in the Mediterranean?
Answer: We do not want any confrontation with any superpower. The attitude we adopted toward the U.S. measure against Libya — I think you are referring to that — is not considered a confrontation with the United States. It was an objection to a certain action. We would have taken a similar stand against any other side.

Question: Some political observers are saying that Pakistan was behind the Punjab disturbances. Is that why your visit to Pakistan has been cancelled?
Answer: They were behind these disturbances in a way. We know that and we have told Pakistan what we know but the postponement of the visit is linked to a general agreement and not simply one part of an agreement. For example, trade relations have not been activated adequately because Pakistan has some reservations and the committees have not met. There is also the question of entry visas and other problems that remain to be solved. There is a long list of unresolved issues.

Question: The world's media are showing great interest in India's relations with the two superpowers. Some commentators predict a desire on the Indian and U.S. sides to develop warmer relations between them. Whereas the late Mrs Indira Gandhi pursued a policy of openness to the Soviet Union, some people maintain that your policy is closer to Western liberalism.
Answer: I do not know, we have not changed that policy much. We still follow the rules of the honest policy drawn up by Mrs Indira Gandhi, but there is one thing. We go faster on some issues and slower on other issues. It is a question of balance. We are trying to mobilize all aspects of the economy to achieve maximum development.

Question: But there is clear openness toward the United States.
Answer: We have achieved more progress in our relations with the United States. Of course we have had problems regarding the Libyan problem recently, but I believe that our relations with the United States should be mature enough to allow both sides to express their views to ensure democracy.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, how do you compare India's relations with the United States now with what they were in the seventies?
Answer: They are better than they were in the seventies in all fields, much better.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, do you not believe that your recent attitude toward the United States at the Security Council will affect U.S.-Indian relations?
Answer: It might but we hope it will not because mature relations mean that democratic sovereign states have a right to express their opinion. When we spoke at the Security Council we were not speaking only for India. All small states and all the Third World states had anxieties regarding the U.S. move. We spoke out, and we feel that what happened in Grenada could happen in Nicaragua which is coming under the same pressures. Libya might be exposed to the same pressures. Such acts expose all our borders to violation and and that is something we do not wish to see.

Question: During my visit in India I have followed the split which has occurred in India's Congress Party which is led by you. Do you believe, Mr Prime Minister, that this will affect the vitality of that national political establishment which is so prominent in India's history? In your view, how much will the strict organizational steps you have taken affect the the party's future?
Answer: These steps will not affect the party's vitality at all. In fact they will reactivate it because certain elements had been a burden to the party.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, you have banished some Congress Party members. How will that affect your democratic image?
Answer: We did that in accordance with the Constitution. That measure was not undemocratic at all.

Gandhi Leaves for Frontline African States

BK140509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was given a warm send-off when he left New Delhi in the early hours of this morning for Lusaka on the first leg of his 5-day visit to four Frontline African States — Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Tanzania. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by his cabinet colleagues, members of Parliament, diplomats, and other officials. The prime minister is accompanied by his wife, Mrs Sonia Gandhi. Others accompanying him include the external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro; and the minister of state for fertilizers, Mr Natwar Singh.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, the prime minister said that his visit is in support of those countries which are fighting the abhorrent practice of apartheid. Asked whether he is taking any specific proposal to hasten the process of Namibian independence, Mr Gandhi gave a negative reply and said he will discuss the matter with the African leaders.

At Lusaka, the prime minister will have talks with President Kenneth E. Kaunda and his colleagues in Zambia before flying to Harare. Mr Gandhi will have talks with the chairman designate of NAM [Nonaligned Movement], Dr Robert Mugabe, and will call on the president of Zimbabwe, Mr Canaan Banana. Later the prime minister will proceed to the Angolan capital Luanda where he will have talks with its leader, Dr Santos. Mr Gandhi will also meet the SWAPO [Southwest African People's Organization] leader, Mr Sam Nujoma. He will then fly to Dar es Salaam where he will have official talks with the president, Ali-Hassan Mwinyi. He will also have a meeting with the former Tanzanian president, Dr Julius Nyerere, before returning to New Delhi on Monday.

External Minister Raps Jayewardene Remarks on Tamils

BK131639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] India has requested Sri Lanka to communicate its views on certain alternative formulations for solving the ethnic problem. The new external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, said this in the Rajya Sabha today while replying to a calling-attention motion by Mr V. Gopalaswamy, DMK, and 24 others. He said there are a number of crucial gaps in the formulations on the extent to which Sri Lanka is willing to meet the political aspirations of the Tamils. These formulations were brought from Sri Lanka by the Chidambaram delegation. The gap relates to core issues like law and order and the relationship between the northern and eastern provinces.

Mr Shiv Shankar said Tamils attach great importance to these issues. However, there has been some movement on issues like the overall structure for devolution of power and land settlement policy. He said only a package of proposals which constitute a fair and reasonable basis for a negotiated settlement can be put to the Tamil side. Mr Shiv Shankar said unless Sri Lanka takes decisive steps to accommodate the Tamil aspirations, the political process may suffer a setback. India is keen to ensure that a solution is arrived at within a compressed time frame. Condemning the continuing violence in Sri Lanka, he said it is vitiating the atmosphere for a peaceful solution.

Replying to a question, Mr Shiv Shankar expressed regret on President Jayewardene's reported statement suggesting a military solution to the ethnic problem. He described it as intemperate and irresponsible. He said it does not behoove a seasoned politician like Mr Jayewardene to speak so.

Mr Shiv Shankar also said that the Sri Lankan president's remarks about the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, are without any basis and are unfortunate. He said this shows to what extent Mr Jayewardene has lost the confidence of his own people. He, however, did not agree with the demand that India should break off diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka.

Replying to some members' points that the involvement of some foreign countries in Sri Lanka poses a threat to India's security, the minister said the matter has been taken up at the diplomatic level. While Britain has denied the involvement of mercenaries from that country, the issue has been taken up with South Africa and Israel through countries friendly to them. The minister said so far 126,000 refugees have come to India from Sri Lanka. He said India cannot turn them back unless safe and honorable conditions are created for their return.

Speaking on the motion, members expressed serious concern over the developments in Sri Lanka and urged the government to take

a strong stand. They argued that since Mr Jayewardene has internationalized the issue by seeking military assistance from Western powers, the question cannot be treated as an internal problem of Sri Lanka. The mover of the motion, Mr Gopalaswamy, said there is no use continuing the negotiations with Sri Lanka. He urged the government to restructure its policy for protecting the lives and property of Sri Lankan Tamils.

Several opposition members urged the government to mobilize public opinion against the Sri Lankan Government in international fora. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan national security minister has said that Colombo is willing to discuss the recent package of proposals with representatives of Tamil groups. Mr Athulathmudali told the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, that after the proposals are examined by the Government of India, the Sri Lankan Government may be in a position to start a dialogue. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that Mr Dixit told the Sri Lankan minister that, although the recent proposals represent more progress on certain aspects, some more elements remain to be sorted out.

Further Details

BK140354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] According to PTI report, the Sri Lankan response on certain core issues regarding the ethnic conflict in the island has caused deep disappointment to India. The report says that the response falls far short of the basis for meaningful negotiations for a political solution. The response was conveyed by the Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr Bernard Tillakaratne, to the external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, during their discussions in New Delhi yesterday.

The discussions concerned certain alternative formulations regarding law and order and the nature of the relationship between the present northern and eastern provinces of the island. The reports says that the Indian disappointment means that Colombo will have to reconsider its position on these issues before discussions could commence with the Tamil groups.

Continuing Reportage on 'Indirect Talks' in Geneva

Main Issues Discussed

BK131602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan continued in Geneva today. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN [APP] says the indirect talks have gained momentum as progress has been made toward the main issues of the proposed comprehensive settlement. A Pakistani delegation spokesman told APP after today's meeting that now the two sides are considering the main issues.

Yaqub Khan, UN's Cordovez Meet

BK140439 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, had an hour-long meeting with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and other members of the Pakistani delegation at Pakistan's permanent mission in Geneva yesterday evening. According to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN], they reviewed the progress made in the indirect talks held so far on the fourth instrument of the comprehensive agreement for the settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

It is understood that at the meeting, discussions were held on various matters for the settlement including the talks on the timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. It is expected that Cordovez will have such informal meeting with the Kabul delegation before the commencement of the formal talks today.

APP says after the informal talks held yesterday more important points of the proposed agreement have come under consideration.

After yesterday's meeting a spokesman of the Pakistani delegation told the news agency that both sides are coming toward the real problems now. The spokesman said the basic principles of the fourth instrument of the proposed comprehensive agreement, on which the talks are being held now, are very important as only after reaching consensus will the talks on the timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan begin. Therefore, the axis of the present round of talks lies on the consensus on the time table for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

The spokesman said the seventh round of indirect talks can be divided into three parts: one, the preamble to the fourth instrument and discussions on other miscellaneous matters; two, discussions on vital basic principles by which talks can be held on the question of withdrawal of troops; and three, talks on the withdrawal of troops.

He said at the talks held so far only the first part was discussed and thus the extension of talks till the 3d week seems to be indispensable.

Protest Lodged With DRA Over Border Attacks

BK131547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Afghan artillery shelled the Teri Mangal market area in Khurram Agency at 0945 this morning, killing 14 people and injuring more than 20 others. Those killed included 13 Afghan refugees and 1 Pakistani national.

On Thursday [8 May], four Afghan fighter planes entered Pakistani airspace at 0845 and dropped some bombs on Khurram Agency, slightly injuring three soldiers of the Khurram militia.

Again at 0640 on Friday, four Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistan's airspace and dropped two bombs on the (Kotri) post in Khurram Agency, completely destroying the post.

Two Afghan jet aircraft again violated Pakistani airspace between 2220 and 2235 on Saturday and dropped two bombs and fired several rockets in the (Gomandi) area, 30 miles northeast of Chaman, killing one and injuring two Afghan refugees.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon, and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks. He was asked to convey to his authorities that if these attacks are not stopped, the entire responsibility for their serious consequences will rest with them.

AFP: Further Details

NC131905 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 13 (AFP) — Artillery shells fired from inside Afghanistan killed 14 people, most of them Afghan refugees, and wounded 20 at a Pakistani border market on Tuesday, Pakistani officials said.

Sources close to the Afghan resistance said the shelling may have been part of a fresh Soviet-backed drive against guerrillas in the area, traditionally a springboard for the insurgents. The shells hit the market at Teri Mangal, west of the Pakistani border town of Parachinar, according to officials in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar. Thirteen of the dead were reported to have been Afghan refugees and one was said to have been a Pakistani. Earlier in the day, Afghan rebel sympathizers in Peshawar had given a slightly lower casualty toll.

Pakistan separately protested on Tuesday against what it said were three other recent violations of its air space by Afghan Government planes on May 8, 9, 10, according to the Pakistani news agency APP.

The latest incident appeared to be linked to the start of a combined offensive by Soviet and Afghan Government troops against what are reported to be at least two major guerrilla bases in Jaji District, near the Afghan border, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY said.

The agency, generally reliable for information on eastern Afghanistan, has reported that the combined communist forces began shelling Jaji about a week and that a major military convoy

had apparently left the garrison town of Gardez, in the southeastern province of Paktia, for Jaji. [sentence as received] Jaji, at the northeastern tip of Paktia, is a key guerrilla infiltration springboard. It came under heavy fire last September during a major offensive throughout the southeast from Kabul to the border.

Afghan Mujahidin Destroy 3 Posts, Kill 85 Soldiers
BK131611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have destroyed three military posts in the capital of the Farah Province, killing 50 Soviet-Karmal soldiers in the operation. In another attack at (Jugdaluk) at the outskirts of Kabul, 35 Soviet-Kabul guerrillas [as heard] were killed.

JANG Criticizes Asghar Khan, USSR Envoy Meeting
GF131047 Lahore JANG in Urdu 7 May 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Confederation Plan"]

[Text] Air Marshal (Rtd) Asghar Khan, chairman of the Tehrik-e Istiqlal Party, at a meeting the other day with his excellency Abdul Rakhman Vezirov, the Soviet ambassador, exchanged views on his plan to form a Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran confederation. This plan is the brainchild of the Tehrik-e Istiqlal Party.

Speaking to correspondents after the meeting he said: If this confederation comes into existence it will not only bring a balance of power to the region but will also ensure considerable savings by introducing a decrease in the size of armies. This saving could be used by the three countries in the welfare of their people.

Asghar Khan is leader of a political party. It is not unusual for leaders of political parties to meet with foreign envoys and representatives, but to discuss matters which are beyond the jurisdiction of the political leaders certainly looks strange.

We could ask Asghar Khan whether in his present political status he could give any practical shape to the matter he discussed with the Soviet ambassador.

Tehrik-e Istiqlal's political popularity is not such that it could hope to come to power in the near future. Moreover, the subject of a confederation between those three countries is not such that the leader of a political party of limited influence could say that his views were based on the wishes of the whole nation.

It is no secret to Asghar Khan that widespread differences exist not only in the political, economic, and social systems of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, but that there also are basic differences between the three countries on international problems. In regional matters they do not hold the same views. Therefore, his meeting is neither related to our national interest nor does it represent the views of any influential political party.

Musavi Addresses Guards Corps' Explosives Experts

LD131346 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that economic, military and political pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran have so far proven ineffective due to the resistance of the people. The prime minister was speaking to a group of explosive experts of Imam 'Ali (AS) Division of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

He said despite the overall support of international imperialism for the Iraqi regime, the devotion and resistance of Islamic combatants of Iran has saved the Islamic revolution and forced the enemies of Islam to retreat. He praised braveries of the members of the battalion, adding that propaganda machinery of international arrogance feared representing the true profile of the Islamic combatants.

The prime minister noted that the world public opinion were under the control of a handful of international news agencies which, from the very beginning of the Islamic Revolution, have tried to mar realities about the revolution. Musavi stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to its reliance on committed Muslims, has been standing on its feet and has the power to make decisions in the benefit of the revolution.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Criticizes U.S. Statement

LD131738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Regarding a White House spokesman's statement about threats to U.S. interests if the Iran-Iraq war expands and about attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman, describing the statements as a propaganda ploy by the U.S. ruling circles to sell more arms to the countries in the region, said: The world's free-thinking people today realize that the sole factor of tension in the Persian Gulf and the side which started the attacks on oil tankers was the aggressive Iraqi regime which, supported by international arrogance's military and political support and the green light to that regime particularly from U.S. imperialism, has been operating as a tool of imperialism to exacerbate tension in the region.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, stressing that the Persian Gulf security is the responsibility of the countries in the region and that the United States has no right to exercise any interference whatsoever or to offer any opinions on the matter, said: On the one hand the United States and its allies help Iraq in its attacks in the Persian Gulf, and, on the other hand, use the excuse of increasing tension in the region and of safeguarding security to sell more arms and further entrench their presence in the region — something which itself is a factor which causes insecurity in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while bringing this fact to the attention of nations and states in the region, declares that it will confront that conspiracy and regards it its right — in the war that international arrogance has imposed upon Iran through the Saddam regime — to defend itself by every possible means and to eliminate the source of tension in the region and settle the issue.

U.S. Blamed for Abduction of Newsmen in W. Beirut

LD132115 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Lebanese Muslim ulema and clergymen have (?revealed) that the United States and the Zionist regime, by embarking on abducting and assassinating foreign newsmen resident in West Beirut, are paving the way for delivering a military blow to the Lebanese Muslims. The Lebanese Muslim ulema delivered speeches in different parts of this country which were covered in the Beirut press today and they emphasize that what is currently happening in West Beirut has been fabricated by international information machinery and local organizations have denied interfering in such fabrications.

A spokesman for the Hezbollah of Lebanon, 'Allamah Ibrahim al-Amin, blamed the United States for abducting the foreign journalists in West Beirut. On the other hand 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the clergyman and a prominent 'alem [a singular form of ulema, meaning scholar] of Lebanon, warned that the situation in this country has now become grave and added: The abductions, as well as well assassinations, that we are witnessing is one of the gravest crises in Lebanon.

Pakistani Muslim Students Urge Anti-U.S. Protests

LD132100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Imamiyah Students' Union of Pakistan, at the end of its meeting in Lahore University yesterday, named this coming Thursday [15 May] the Day of Death to United States, in order to mark the anniversary of the Palestine occupation by Zionists. This union also invited the people of Pakistan to show their solidarity with the Muslim people of Palestine by participating in anti-Zionist and anti-American demonstrations.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, the Imamiyah Students' Union, during its meeting, referred to the bomb explosion at the engineering department of Lahore University as an American conspiracy. This union also called upon the Pakistan Government to reduce relations with the United States, ban printing of the U.S. periodicals and pamphlets in Pakistan, and grant permits only to Islamic countries to establish cultural centers.

Bahrain-Qatar Feud Shows GCC Lack of Cooperation

GF140743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 May 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "Differences Between Bahrain and Qatar Regarding the Hawar Archipelago"]

[Text] Sixteen days ago Qatari Government troops alighted on a small island in the Persian Gulf. Now the 30 employees of a

Dutch company — who had been abducted at the beginning of the operations — have been released by the Doha officials.

The incident took place on 26 April this year, when the Qatari Armed Forces attacked the small Fasht al-Dibal island and took to Doha the employees of a Dutch company who were involved in the construction of military installations on that island. The two sides were silent for a few days and only attacked one another in communiques, each accusing the other of committing aggression against the other's sovereignty. The Saudi defense minister acted as an intermediary when he visited Manama and Doha. The small desert island of Fasht al-Dibal, which submerges at high tide, comprises an archipelago along with two other islands, Hawar and (Jeradah), known together as Hawar.

The Bahrain Government states that the Al-Khalifah dynasty, the present rulers of the country, settled on the shores of the Qatari peninsula in the beginning of the 18th century of the Gregorian calendar, from where they went to the Hawar Islands and then assumed sovereignty over Bahrain. Hence the Fasht al-Dibal has belonged to them for the past 2 centuries. However, the Qatari Government has refuted this claim by the Bahraini Government and professes sovereignty over the island. Some historians state that the question of who possesses the Hawar archipelago dates back to 1938 when British colonialists controlled the destiny of the littoral shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf. The Bahraini and Qatari shaykhs referred their dispute to the British authorities, who gave one party a written deed of ownership and the other party an oral one. Thus the source of dissension remained.

There are many similar cases in the Persian Gulf analogous to the Hawar dispute. For example, the UAE, the Sultanate of Oman, and the Saudi monarchy had differences with one another concerning an area called Wadi al-Buraymah dating back to British colonial domination; this still exists. Territorial differences between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Jordan and Iraq, and Kuwait and Iraq were until recently one factor for the wrangling among the sides involved. When the Iraqi regime realized last year that it needed financial and other assistance from Saudi Arabia and Jordan, it ignored the causes of its discord with these two countries, but even now the presence of neutral territory in the middle of Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia is tangible proof of the unresolved border dispute between them.

The schism between the two minor governments of Bahrain, with an area of 670 square km and a population of 380,000, and Qatar, with an area of 11,000 square km and a population of 250,000 — was temporarily pushed in the background through the arbitration of the newly formed GCC. Differences were put aside. As Qatar has stated, the two agreed not to attempt any merger of the Hawar Islands. The Bahraini Government violated this agreement and employed a Dutch company to change this island into a military base. The Qatari Government adds that it had no choice but to stage an armed attack and abduct the employees.

Following the Fasht al-Dibal incident, the Saudi defense minister hastily visited Bahrain and Qatar and asked the shaykhs of the two countries to forget their differences. The foreign minister and 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general, initiated mediation measures. Then Husni Mubarak and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba telephoned the two sides to begin negotiations. None of these efforts have so far persuaded Qatar to remove its military units stationed in the vicinity of Fasht al-Dibal. After repeated shuttling and efforts by those mentioned above and contacts by the British envoy in Qatar and the Netherlands charge d'affaires in Kuwait, and after 16 days, the Qatari Government finally agreed only to releasing the 30 expatriate employees of the Dutch company who were taken hostage.

This incident indicates that members of the GCC, contrary to its name, could not even cooperate with one another or resolve their territorial disputes. This issue is desparate from the other differences, which stem from the presence of foreign forces in the region or the proposal for a joint peace plan among its members. In any case, overt and covert negotiations are in progress, which until now have yielded no fruit except to keep the rift quiet. There is no indication that a fundamental solution to the differences has been achieved.

Envoy in Kuwait Meets With Crown Prince

LD131401 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Kuwait, May 13, IRNA — Charge D'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Reza Baqeri met with the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister here Tuesday to discuss mutual relations and the latest developments in the region.

At the meeting Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah expressed hope that relations between the two countries would further expand.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Claim 'Categorically' Denied

LD131817 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Tuesday categorically denied an Iraqi claim of having shot down an Iranian jet fighter near the Iran-Iraq border Tuesday. The WIH Spokesman said that on Tuesday Iranian fighter bombers had heavily poinded Iraqi positions in Faqqeh, southern fronts four times Tuesday and safely returned to their bases.

The spokesman said to save itself from the trouble of substantiating its claim the Iraqi regime had said that the Iranian fighter had crashed over the Iranian territory.

Navy Inspects Iraq-Bound Vessel

LD131717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] According to a report from the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave warriors of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1820 hours (local time) yesterday intercepted and inspected a foreign merchant ship in the Persian Gulf waters and after making sure

that it was not carrying any goods bound for the Iraqi aggressive state, was allowed to continue its voyage.

According to this report, on the country's western front, seven group bunkers, two tanks, and two light- and heavy-weight enemy vehicles were destroyed and a number of their troops were either killed or wounded. In the Panjwin operational sector, our forces opened fire on several enemy units which were redeploying their troops and inflicted some losses on them. The city of Abadan was under the Zionist enemy's long range artillery fire yesterday.

Successes in Faqqeh Region

LD131751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the combatants of Islam in the Faqqeh operational sector continued their victorious battle against the Iraqi forces today and by smashing their positions, set ablaze and destroyed dozens of tanks and personnel carriers and a large number of vehicles belonging to the aggressive enemy. During yesterday's and today's clashes, more than 60 mortar launchers were either destroyed or were captured intact by the forces of Islam as booty. Also in the course of repulsing a move by the Zionist enemy's forces in Pich-e Angizeh operational sector, the victorious warriors of Islam smashed the enemy positions and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamists.

The fast flying pilots of the Iranian Air Force succeeded in heavily bombing concentration points, military hardware, and troops of Baghdad's Ba'thist forces in the Faqqeh sector at 0525, 0825, 0935, and 1308 hours today; and after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, safely returned to their bases.

Communique No 2,469

LD131802 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Iranian naval forces intercepted and inspected a cargo ship sailing under foreign flag in the Persian Gulf at 14:50 hours GMT Monday, but allowed her to continue voyage after being satisfied that she was not carrying military hardware or war-related goods to Iraq, according to a military communique here tuesday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2469 says that Iranian Muslim forces checked Iraqi engineering operations throughout the southern fronts and opened fire on enemy armoured units elsewhere in Yebis and Hoseyniyeh, silencing their fire.

Seven bunkers, two tanks and three vehicles of Iraqi forces were destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded in the western fronts Monday, says the joint staff.

The communique says that artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee in Shur Shirin and checked movements of Iraqi vehicle columns in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, Neqazeh and Halaleh.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iranian forces continued their defensive operations and despatched patrols to pre-determined targets among the Iraqi forces. They also shelled Iraqi engineering units and supply vehicles in Marvdasht halting or limiting their activities. Some Iraqi units in Panjwin were shelled and sustained casualties as they were changing position, says the military communique. Meanwhile Iraqi long range artillery fire on Abadan, Khuzestan Province, Monday, damaged some buildings in the city.

4 Iraqi Helicopters Downed

LD140708 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — The Islamic forces of Iran repelled an Iraqi attack in Haj 'Umran area, opposite the West Azarbayjan city of Piranshahr, five kms from the Iran-Iraqi border, Wednesday morning, said a Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters statement. Hundreds of enemy forces were killed or wounded, it added.

According to the communique the attack was totally crushed and the Iranian air defence units downed four Iraqi helicopter gunships which intended to attack the Iranian positions in the area. The Islamic forces of Iran also destroyed five enemy tanks and a number of other enemy light and heavy munitions.

7 Helicopters Downed

LD141002 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., May 14, IRNA — The number of Iraqi helicopter gunships downed in Haj 'Umran area, 5 kms from the Iran-Iraq border opposite the West Azarbayjan City of Piranshahr, has reached to seven, said a military commander of the Islamic Forces of Iran in Seyyed al-Shohada headquarters, here Wednesday. Commenting on the Iraqi Wednesday morning desperate attack, he said that a number of Iraqi forces have been captured, some 200 of them have been killed and hundreds of others wounded. The Islamic Forces of Iran have set 10 Iraqi tanks ablaze and large amount of enemy munition have been destroyed, he added.

Iraqi Attack Repulsed 14 May

GF140724 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters has announced that the forces of the 'Aflaqi regime launched at dawn today, Wednesday, a counteroffensive against the Haj 'Umran area. The heroes of Islam repulsed the offensive and destroyed it completely, thanks to their vigilance and rapid movement. They killed hundreds of the troops of the ruling Zionist regime in Iraq. During the repulse of this attack, carried out by the forces of the ruling Zionist regime, the Islamic combatants downed four enemy helicopter gunships which attempted to bomb Islamic positions. Five tanks were destroyed in addition to scores of arms and light- and medium-heavy military equipment belonging to the forces of the ruling 'Aflaqi regime in Iraq.

Heavy Iraqi Casualties in Faqqeh

LD140745 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — The Iranian warplanes in two separate missions Wednesday morning bombed concentration centers of the armoured Iraqi forces in northwest of the Faqqeh operational theater, northwest of Bostan in Khuzestan Province, said a Joint Staff statement. According to the statement in these attacks heavy casualties and damage were inflicted on enemy positions and all Iranian aircraft returned safely to their bases.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes bombed a Tehran-bound passenger train at a station north of Ahvaz in Khuzestan Province, killing 54 civilians and wounding 246 others, according to IRNA reports. Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi warned that the attack will not go unanswered, while a military statement declared that Iran will "decisively respond" to the Iraqi action, IRNA reported. Tehran radio subsequently revealed that the Iranian Foreign Ministry has sent a note to the UN secretary general in which it "strongly condemns" the Iraqi air strike.

As for Iraq's attack in the northern Hajj 'Umran area, a military report cited by Tehran radio stated that Iraq lost over 2,500 troops killed or wounded in the offensive, which was "fully crushed" by Iranian forces. Over 15 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and an Iraqi helicopter airstrip in Diyanah was bombed by Iranian planes, IRNA reported earlier. On the other hand, communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that Iraq captured several peaks overlooking the Hajj 'Umran basin in an offensive that was "settled completely" in Iraq's "favor." Further south, in the Faqqeh area, Iranian forces defeated another Iraqi attack, killing or wounding over 400 enemy troops and destroying over 22 tanks, according to a military report cited by IRNA. For Iraq's part, a communique reported that an Iranian offensive in the East Maysan area was repulsed with 780 Iranians killed and scores captured, according to Voice of the Masses.

In air activity, Iranian planes raided the Iraqi oil installations and refinery in Kirkuk, causing "substantial damage" to them, according to a communique cited by IRNA.

The Baghdad paper *AL-THAWRAH* asserted that an undisclosed number of fighters from eight Arab countries, including Syria, Egypt, and Jordan, are to depart for southern Iraq to participate in the fighting against Iranian forces in the Al-Faw area, according to WAKH.

Sudan

The composition of the new cabinet was announced by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in a 15 May statement to the Constituent Assembly reported by SUNA, which noted that Al-Mahdi himself is the new defense minister while Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Secretary General Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi becomes deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The majority of portfolios are distributed among the Al-Ummah National Party and the DUP, but the Cabinet also includes four southerners and a new minister for "peace and unity" whose brief reflects the importance of the south in the government's priorities, according to an earlier KUNA report.

As for the new government's foreign policy, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told a 14 May press conference that Sudan will maintain good-neighborly relations with Libya but that it is still keen to maintain relations with the United States. Sudan will seek relations with the superpowers without military, security, or political affiliations, he added. The new government will review treaties concluded by former President Ja'far al-Numayri, including the defense pact with Egypt, and it will hold talks with Egyptian officials on the integration agreement to find an acceptable alternative. He also said legislation to rectify the 1983 Islamic laws will be one of his government's top priorities.

DRA

PDPA Secretary General Najibullah announced the strengthening and consolidation of the PDPA "collective" leadership in a 14 May speech carried by BAKHTAR. He said authority will henceforth be divided in a "logical manner" with Babrak Karmal concentrating on the work of new state organs and Soltan Ali Keshtmand focusing on the tasks of government and economic policy.

Jordan

Three students were killed and 18 policemen were injured during clashes between student demonstrators and police at Yarmuk University, an Interior Ministry spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Amman radio 15 May. Accusing a student "sabotage group" of exploiting the dismissal of 32 students from the university 13 May, the spokesman said the protests began that day and continued the following day when the demonstrators caused "havoc" on the campus. The police managed to control the situation and to arrest several agitators, he stated.

Syria

Reaction to Peres Statement — Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' statement that there is no chance of a political settlement with Syria as long as President Hafiz al-Asad remains in power, Damascus radio affirmed that Syria seeks a "just and comprehensive" peace but it rejects the Arab "capitulation" envisaged in Israel's understanding of peace. The main obstacle to peace in the Middle East is Israel's occupation and seizure of other people's territory, its denial of Palestinian national rights, and its drive to establish a "Greater Israel," the radio maintained. An *AL-BA'TH* editorial cited by the radio stressed that Al-Asad's leadership is a "firm guarantee" that the Arab struggle will be maintained.

Lebanese Hostages — In Lebanon, a caller claiming affiliation with Islamic Jihad warned that the Jihad's foreign hostages will be "the first who will pay" for "pressure" on Syria and the Jihad group, according to AFP. The caller did not say how many hostages remain but he disclosed that some have already been

executed. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the caller also warned Syria against trying to secure the release of the U.S. and French hostages.

Israel

West Bank — A curfew was imposed in Nabulus following violent demonstrations by Palestinian residents protesting a scheduled Independence Day march by Jewish settlers, Jerusalem radio reported. At least five Palestinians were injured in clashes with police.

Arms Smuggling — Responding to the arrest by U.S. authorities of Israeli citizen Ze'ev Reiss on suspicion of arms smuggling, the Defense Ministry announced that it knows nothing about Reiss and that an investigation indicates that he does not hold a permit to deal in exporting arms, according to Jerusalem radio.

Kuwait

Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi recently revealed that Kuwait is studying the possibility of diverting some of its investments from the West to the East and Third World countries including the Soviet Union and China, KUNA reported. The minister was replying to a question raised in the National Assembly on the future of Kuwait's investments in the West in light of the freezing of Libyan assets in the United States.

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South Asia

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Today's edition of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT supplement "Chernobyl Incident" will be the last of the special series that began on 7 May. Further reportage and comment on this nuclear accident will be published in the relevant volumes of the DAILY REPORT.

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Najibollah Addresses Kabul Party Plenum

On Need for Unity To Solve Problems

LD150940 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR: There are many vital problems which have accumulated and pending solution. They should not be delayed, set aside or we simply go on talking about them, but they should be solved today. This was said by Comrade Najibollah, general secretary of the PDPA CC addressing the plenum of the party committee of Kabul City held here today.

The party together with the state organs and social organisations, Comrade Najibollah continued to say, would persistently fulfil the pending tasks. The party would strengthen its mechanism of control to verify the execution of its programs and decisions.

General secretary of the PDPA CC pointed out "we should unite our people on the basis of honesty, justice and principledness. We are facing the task of mobilising all the forces in a united front. Our duty is to bring up revolutionary and patriotic unity, integrity and compactness around the party and its Central Committee". The correct implementation of a national policy should not be forgotten for the sake of unity. The party and state of the DRA should pay heed to all ethnic groups, nationalities and tribes. The rights of all the nationalities, big or small, must be ensured Comrade Najibollah emphasized. Talking about the role of intelligentsia, Comrade Najibollah said that we are [words indistinct] that they fully conceive their role in the revolution and would employ all their power for the building of a prosperous society. Comrade Najibollah stressed on the role of the youth for the cause of the revolution, and called upon the youth of the country and the democratic youth organisation of the DRA for their ever greater participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and for the solution of the current problems of the revolution.

On Defense, Political Solution

LD151007 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR — "Presently 64 rpt 64 percent of party members have arms in hand and are taking direct part in defending the country", said Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC addressing the plenum of party committee of Kabul city here today.

We can pridefully say, Comrade Najib went on to say, that the PDPA is a militant party and it is correct that the people demand from us and the party members the urgent cessation of bloodshed, the suppression of the counter-revolution and the ensuring of a peaceful life. We should take all the measures including military, social, (?economic), political and international for the fulfilment of this objective. General secretary of the PDPA CC emphasized that the party and state of the DRA actively support the political solution of the situation around the DRA including the Geneva talks.

In view of the holding of first democratic elections, the expansion and consolidation of the state power in the localities, the amount of work of the Revolutionary Council has considerably increased. The work of the party has also tremendously increased. The PDPA presently has 155 rpt 155 thousand members. The membership of social organisations, including the National Fatherland Front, has increased from 50 rpt 50 thousand to 760 rpt 760 thousand people, Comrade Najib pointed out. The decisions of the 8th Plenum of the PDPA CC are of principled importance for the evolution of the state and party structure. The crux of the matter, said Comrade Najib, is that the number and nature of undelayable problems have multiplied and this calls upon us to promote the role of collective work in the leading organs, said Comrade Najib.

On Counterrevolutionaries, Education

LD151008 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR: A plenum of Kabul City party committee was held today at Kabul Polytechnic Institute and endoresed the decisions of the 18th Plenum of the Central Committee [CC] of the PDPA. Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC participated at the plenum and delivered a (?comprehensive) speech about tasks of the Party Committee of Kabul City in the process of [word indistinct] Democratic Revolution of April of [word indistinct].

Addressing the participants of the plenum, Comrade Najib said that the 16th Plenum of the PDPA CC stipulated that the struggle for the expansion and consolidation of the social bases of people's sovereignty, termination of bloodshed and destabilisation of peace and order in the country, a purposeful cooperation with all the patriots are the tasks which must be executed by the party members and all the patriots. The party, Comrade Najib stressed, would take all the necessary measures for the urgent ending of bloodshed, suppression of the counter-revolutionary bandits and ensuring peace and order throughout the country. We are actively supporting the political solution of the situation around the DRA including the Geneva talks, emphasized Comrade Najib. The party will intensively employ (?its) control mechanism for the execution of the plans and decisions made by it.

General secretary of the PDPA CC said that despite limitations, the party has been endeavouring to provide education facilities. About one hundred thousand pupils and students are furthering their education in the instituion of higher technicums, vocational schools, the upper classes of secondary schools and city schools alone. The Politburo of the PDPA CC is confident that the Kabul City party committee will continue ever firmer its role in maintaining the unity of party ranks. There is no doubt that today's plenum will open a new chapter in the life of the party organisation. There exist many tasks to be performed but to talk much about them do not mean their implementation. It is high time for every Afghan, every collective, primary organisation and every party member to take practical action on them, general secretary of the PDPA CC pointed out.

Wali Mohammed Abdiyani and Abdul Wasi members of the Executive Bureau of Kabul City party committee, expressed their all-sided support for the implementation of the decisions of the party plenums.

Comrade Najib awarded honorary banners to the winners of the nation-wide work emulation drives at the meeting.

Iranian Tudeh Party Greets Najibollah on Election

GF141017 Kabul in English to South Asia
0900 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The following congratulatory message has been received here from 'Ali Khaveri, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran, addressed to Comrade Najib on the occasion of his election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA. The message reads:

Esteemed Comrade Najib: On behalf of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran, I sincerely congratulate you on the occasion of your election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA. Dear comrade, having played an active role in the April Revolution and having influenced (?several) with all your energy in the great task of building a new Afghanistan, and in the assurance, welfare, and prosperity of the foreign matters of Afghanistan you are befittingly respected by the PDPA and the militant people of your country. We assure you that in conditions when the reactionary regime of the Islamic e befittingly respected by the against the people of Afghanistan, the toilers, and all peace-loving and progressive people of Iran and (?the world) will remain on the side of their Afghan brothers and strongly condemn the actions of the regime.

The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran wishes you, in your important post of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, and all members of the (?Politburo), successes and hopes that the traditional friendship between the Tudeh Party of Iran and the PDPA will become more fruitful and blossoming under your leadership.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran, General Secretary 'Ali Khaveri.

Zia Rouses 'Indignation,' 'Hatred' of Pakistani Masses

LD150841 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 13, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The oppressive policy of the Government of Pakistan against the people of that country and the anti-Afghan policy of the Ziaul Haq regime has roused indignation and hatred of the broad masses of Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan manifest their hatred and indignation toward the regime by waging vast demonstrations and strikes in different cities of that country. The current developments in Pakistan indicate that the wave of indignation and protest (?of the people) of a country emanate from the objective fact of the Pakistani society.

The Islamabad regime, by following the military strategy of the Washington administration, is one of the major recipients of most modern weapons and it ranks fourth in the world from the point of military expenditures. Washington also strives to ever further draw that country into its military strategic noose in South Asia and to use it as its springboard in South Asia. At present U.S. military bases have been set up in Pakistan and dictates of Washington are followed by the puppet military regime.

The Ziaul Haq regime plays an important role as an instrument of the U.S. imperialism in the all-sided imperialistic undeclared war against the DRA, the CIA puts the most sophisticated weapons at the disposal of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries through Pakistan.

The Afghan counter-revolutionaries fight with each other (?for obtaining) large quotas of aid from their masters and kill each other. As a result of criminal rivalries among the Afghan counter-revolutionaries, explosions and unrest are on the increase in different cities of Pakistan.

A glance at the reign of Ziaul Haq military government makes it clear that Ziaul Haq has not only not done anything to the interest of the people of Pakistan but has killed or put in jail political, social, national and progressive figures of Pakistan on charges of defying his anti-people policy.

The people of Pakistan are deprived of their most fundamental political and democratic rights. So far, tens of demonstrations and peaceful gatherings aimed at attaining their legitimate rights were strangulated.

The latest clashes between the police of the military regime of Islamabad and the demonstrators in Karachi City is the best example of the exertion of pressure land military suffocation over the people.

The Pakistani people know it well that Ziaul's regime has sold their country to the United States against a military deal and is pursuing the U.S. military strategy of neo-globalism for the suppression of national movements in Pakistan and the region.

It has become clear for the Pakistani people that the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands are not only employed by imperialism and Islamabad regime for destructive activities against the DRA but they are also used for the assassination of Pakistani national and political figures and suppression of progressive forces.

The people of Pakistan have demanded the immediate withdrawal of the counter-revolutionary bands who are disrupting their peaceful life. The inhuman acts of the Pakistan regime have escalated unrest, indignation and anti-American and anti-Ziaul feelings among the Pakistani people. Under the circumstances, the collapse of Ziaul's regime appears to be inevitable.

Villagers Flee Afghan Border After Air Attacks

BK150056 Hong Kong AFP in English 0014 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 14 (AFP) — Villagers on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan fled to safer areas Wednesday as Afghan jets and helicopter gunships mounted fresh cross-frontier attacks killing at least two people, Afghan rebels said.

The rebel AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) news agency said the two died in further raids on the Pakistani border village of Teri Mengal where 14 people were killed and at least 20 others injured in Tuesday's Afghan shelling of the village market.

Reliable sources in the region told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that three Afghan jets destroyed the Bala Hissar border post in the Parachinar area of northwestern Pakistan but no one was killed.

Rebel sources said the attacks coincided with fresh troop arrivals from the Afghan garrison town of Gardez in eastern Paktia Province to the Jaji area where raids continued throughout Wednesday.

The rebels said Soviet and Afgan troops might be preparing a big offensive in Jaji like the one in nearby Jhawar last month.

Like Jhawar, Jaji is strategically located along guerrilla border supply routes and the rebels have used the area in the past as a springboard for attacks on Soviet and Afghan forces.

7th Round of UN-Sponsored Afghanistan Talks Begin

BK150139 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of the UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan between Pakistan and the Kabul regime continued in Geneva today. The foreign minister of the Kabul regime, Shah Mohammad Dost, was the first to call on the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, this morning for an hour-long session. Later, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and other members of his delegation had a similar meeting with the UN mediator. The deliberations were continued in the afternoon when the two delegations again separately called on Mr Cordovez for meetings lasting an hour each.

A spokesman of the Pakistan delegation said later that besides the vital question concerning the concept of simultaneity, the interrelationship between the first three instruments relating to the principles of noninterference, declaration of guarantees, and voluntary return of refugees came up during today's deliberations.

The spokesman said Mr Cordovez was now engaged in working out a mutually acceptable overall balance of the proposed agreement. It was evident that Mr Dordovez will try to resolve the main issues mentioned in the draft of instrument four so that discussion could be carried over to the vital question of a time-frame for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

It may be mentioned that the first four articles of the 9-point draft of the fourth instrument had already been textually adjusted in the light of negotiations during the first week of the current round of indirect talks. These articles relate to the preamble and some minor principles concerning interrelationship of the first three instruments which were agreed to during negotiations held in the fourth round of proximity talks in June last year.

Afghan Mujahidin Reportedly Capture 8 Security Posts

BK141548 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Afghan mujahidin attacked the battalion headquarters of the Soviet forces in Takhar Province and captured eight security posts, besides killing and injuring many Soviet-backed Kabul regime soldiers. Another report says the mujahidin destroyed one Soviet helicopter gunship and damage another in rocket attacks in Ghazni Province. The report says the attack was launched soon after the landing of the helicopters at the (Jamhuri) camp.

Iraqi War Planes Bomb Passenger Train 14 May

LD141548 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, May 14, IRNA — Iraqi war planes hit a Tehran-bound passenger train at Hasht-Tappeh station in Khuzestan Province at 16.30 hours (13.00 GMT) Wednesday.

Relief forces and emergency medical teams from the Iranian railway and the Red Crescent society were immediately sent to help the wounded and rescue the passengers.

No report is yet available on the number of the casualties.

Hasht-Tappeh is a small town about 87 kilometers north of Ahvaz and 20 kilometers south of the city of Shush.

54 Killed, 246 Injured

LD141808 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 14, IRNA — Some 54 civilian passengers were martyred and 246 others injured in the wake of Iraqi air attacks on a passenger train near here Wednesday.

Iraqi war planes bombed the passenger train in Hasht-Tappeh, about 87 kilometers north of here at 13:00 GMT Wednesday.

An injured passenger told IRNA at a hospital near here that Iraqi jets had bombed the train three times. The train was leaving Ahvaz for Tehran.

Musavi: Attack Will Not Go 'Unanswered'

LD141823 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Wednesday that Iraq's Wednesday's raid on a passenger train in which 54 Iranian civilians were martyred and 246 others wounded would not go unanswered.

Musavi noted that such crime as this committed by the Iraqi regime brought home the reality that elimination of Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn and his Ba'thist regime is the only solution to the Iraqi-imposed war.

"We will have Saddam Husayn deeply regret his criminal action and will take revenge of the martyred people at a point we ourselves choose", the prime minister said.

Iraqi warplanes shot down an Iranian passenger plane en route to Ahvaz in February martyring over 40 civilian passengers including ranking officials.

War Information HQ Statement

LD141917 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran will decisively respond to Iraq's latest crimes, said a War Information Headquarters (WIH) statement on Iraqi planes attack on a passenger train in Iran's Khuzestan Province Wednesday in which claimed a civilian casualty of about 300.

The WIH statement added that the world public opinion would now fully comprehend why the Iranian Muslim nation is determined to stamp out the Iraqi regime.

The statement said that the Muslim nation of Iran is astounded at the silence of international bodies which profess to be defenders of human rights.

The WIH said that the global bodies whose task it is to speak out against such atrocities are duty-bound to take serious action against "these despicable criminals."

Iraqi crimes during the more than five-year-old imposed war range from attacks on trains to routine bombardment of housing and residential areas, use of internationally-banned chemical wepons, downing of civilian passenger planes as well as attacks on neutral shipping in an attempt to make regional waterways unsafe, the WIH statement said.

The Wednesday attack on the train occurred in Hasht-Tappeh, 87 kilometers north of Ahvaz at 13:00 GMT.

Foreign Ministry Protests to UN

GF150456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, following the attack by the Iraqi regime against an Iranian passenger train which caused the martyrdom or wounding of a number of our civilian compatriots, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent a note to the UN secretary general. The note strongly condemns the Iraqi attack against the Iranian passenger train which is contrary to the 1949 Geneva Convention, all its subsequent appendix protocols in support of civilians, and other international agreements and conventions.

Majlis Speaker: Iraq To Regret Attack

LD150853 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday condemned the recent Iraqi attack on a an Iranian passenger train and stressed that Muslim Iranian forces will make the Iraqi regime to regret its crime.

Speaking at Majlis open session, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that past experiences had proven that whenever Iraqi regime was in a political deadend it resorted to such crimes to conceal its defeats. "But", the speaker said "every time after resorting to such crimes they have regretted and the retaliatory blows have made them to retreat."

Iraqi warplanes hit a passenger train at Hasht-Tappeh station, 78 kms north of Ahvaz Wednesday, martyring 54 people and injuring 246 others. Thirty houses were also destroyed.

Velayati Rejects U.S. Interference in Gulf

LD141346 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said Iran would not allow the U.S. to interfere in the Persian Gulf and stressed that cargo ships should be able to sail freely in the region.

On Tuesday White House Spokesman Larry Speakes had expressed grave concern of the Reagan administration over recent developments in the Persian Gulf.

But Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the strongest power in the Persian Gulf, would not let any foreign country, American or non-American, to intervene in the region.

He said the Persian Gulf should be in complete security where commercial ships could freely sail.

In an interview with Tehran daily *RESALAT*, the foreign minister said "our stance on the Persian Gulf is firm and well known. The region should be free of intervention of the superpowers."

The White House spokesman made his statements following a warning by Iranian Navy commander against the intervention of U.S. war fleet in the Persian Gulf.

Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan had said on Monday that the Navy would counter attempts by U.S. warships to prevent it from searching vessels sailing with Iraq-bound cargo.

"What the U.S. spokesman has said are aimed at encouraging the U.S.-backed states in the region. However, the U.S. has repeatedly proved its inability in military confrontation with revolutionary countries" Velayati said.

He added "Iran, as the biggest power in the region and with longest shore along the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea is most capable of safeguarding the security in the region."

Velayati who has been conducting the country's foreign policy for the past five years said that in his talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', currently visiting Tehran, they had discussed the recent U.S. threats.

"Undoubtedly, ways to counter plot hatched by the U.S. and its agents in the region are topics that we usually discuss with our friends", Velayati said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here Monday for talks on mutual relations between the two countries as well as latest development in the region.

Velayati Meets With Red Cross, Brazilian Officials

Seeks Improved Ties With Red Cross

LD141425 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Operational Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Andre Pasqier reviewed Iran-Red Cross relations with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday.

The official is visiting Iran following a Red Cross letter in which it had expressed regret over previous disputes with Iran and announced its readiness to renew cooperations.

Iran-Red Cross relations were strained in October 1984 after Red Cross officials acted beyond their responsibilities while in the Islamic Republic.

During the Wednesday meeting Pasqier said the Red Cross "has learnt from its experiences and believes closer cooperation would bring about more positive results."

He added that his organization "has no interest to act outside its responsibilities."

Pasqier noted that Iraq-Iran war may last for a long time but the Red Cross interested in continuation of its activities concerning prisoners of war.

Previous difficulties relevant to Red Cross office in Tehran had been studied carefully and "we are ready to start more constructive activities through new proposals," Pasqier said.

Foreign Minister Velayati in reply said the Islamic Republic is a revolutionary country and Iranians are sensitive to the stances adopted by international organizations and other countries vis-a-vis Iran. "The Red Cross should understand this feeling" he said.

Velayati said the Red Cross should re-evaluate its position and Iran expects the organization to be more sensitive towards Iraqi violation of internationally-accepted conventions.

The foreign minister cited an example and said that there is no information on the wherabouts of the former Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan who was captured by Iraqi forces in the first year of the war.

The Red Cross official answered that detention of the former oil minister and his accompanies is an accepted reality and the Red Cross will continue its efforts to meet them.

Confers With Brazilian Official

LD111924 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — Visiting Brazilian Foreign Ministry secretary-general for Africa and the Middle-East Ronald Esmal met and conferred here Sunday with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on bilateral relations and international issues.

The Brazilian official renewed on behalf of the Brazilian foreign minister an earlier invitation to Dr Velayati for visiting Brasilia. The Iranian foreign minister accepted the invitation expressing hope that relations between the two countries would expand in the future.

In a separate meeting Mr Esmal reviewed Iran-Brazil relations and world issues with other ministry officials here Sunday.

Montazeri Urges Officials To Capitalize on Faith

LD111447 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said Thursday that Iran's Islamic propagation workers must exploit all avenues for raising the consciousness of the deprived and oppressed people of the world. He said the Islamic propagator had a duty to assist the disadvantaged masses to regain their identity so that they can resist the big powers' crimes against them.

The ayatollah made the remarks to visiting Ershde-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami and a group of officials in charge of Iran's culture houses abroad, who called on him in the holy city of Qom.

The revered ayatollah told the cultural representatives, here on a homecoming visit that they should capitalize on their Islamic faith and dedication to systematically and intelligently neutralize and expose the propaganda chicanery of the Western and Zionist controlled media. He told them that hard work and understanding of contemporary and past history were essential in doing an effective job of which Islam and the deprived masses could be proud of.

Ayatollah Montazeri advised the officials to ensure that their policies and behavior conform to Islamic canons and that they should not frequent places and engage in practices against the values of the Islamic Revolution.

"Culture house officials have a sacred duty to foil all satanic propaganda with whatever resources are at hand," Ayatollah Montazeri said. "They must reveal the truth of Islam and the revolution to the interested youth throughout the globe," he added.

"Of course, global arrogance is not willing to see the nations rise, as you are familiar with the crimes the U.S., France, the Zionist regime and others commit in the world in the name of peace and ostensibly against terrorism", the ayatollah said.

The U.S. engaged in crimes and massacres in Vietnam for a decade then followed it up with the occupation of Lebanon and Grenada, and support for Nicaraguan Contras. The killing of Afghan Muslims, as well as French, Zionist, and Italian crimes in Lebanon, all stem from the negligence of the nations, Ayatollah Montazeri said.

The duty of culture houses abroad is to acquaint nations with Islamic values, thereby assisting them so that they can resist the cruelty of the arrogant powers, he added.

Majlis Speaker Says Western Leaders 'Mal-Educated'

LD092141 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani rapped the big powers here Thursday saying that the United States, England, the Soviet Union and France are ruled by a clique of mal-educated people thinking of nothing except of how best to exploit other countries and their resources.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was talking to a group of visiting students and educators from Khorasan Province here on the occasion of the Teacher Week said much of the vices and mischief originating from the governments are in fact the consequence of improper education on the parts of heads of state, and of an education devoid of spiritual and ethical values.

The Majlis speaker said the big powers are panicked by the Islamic revolution, because they readily see that in dealing with Iran they are actually dealing with a people driven by an unknown force defying all forms of antagonism. He said if true education and humane values had prevailed throughout the world then the world people would not have been subjugated as they are by the power wielders.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said despite their being the most blatant of all terrorists in the world, Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and other personalities from the industrialized world had, in their Tokyo meeting this week singled out Libya as a terrorist country. He said the political figures of the powerful states who profess to be against terrorism train terrorists in their own countries and then send them on missions to the Third World countries introducing them as revolutionaries, freedom fighters and later give them protection in the form of political asylum.

The Majlis speaker expressed hope that educators would remain devoted to their job and dedicate themselves to education as a means for developing humane values in the people.

Ambassador Visits Uganda, Meets President

GF120720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] According to IRNA, our country's ambassador to Kenya, on a visit to Uganda, has met with the Ugandan president and other Ugandan officials.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Foreign Ministry, during this meeting the Ugandan president thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its policies concerning attention to Third World nations as well as the deprived countries in Africa. He praised the struggles of the Muslim people of Iran along the road to independence. The Ugandan president said: Uganda, for various reasons, including the similar views of the two countries on the regimes in South Africa and Israel, as well as Iran's position versus the aggressive powers, wants to use Iran's experiences in rebuilding Uganda. Uganda also wants to establish strong relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, a trade delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had gone to Kenya, met yesterday with that country's

agriculture minister in Nairobi and discussed expanding bilateral relations. During the meeting the Kenyan agriculture minister praised Iran's willingness to expand ties with developing countries and stressed the need to expand friendly bilateral ties.

Cabinet Approves Funds for Guard Corps, Gendarmerie

LD142155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 14 May 86

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held a meeting this afternoon. The meeting discussed major domestic and international developments and heard a report about the crushing of the aggressive enemy on the Faqqeh and Pich-e Angizeh fronts.

The meeting also discussed a draft bill on penalties for producers, distributors, and retailers of inappropriate and vulgar dress and it was decided to submit the bill to the Majlis for ratification. Under the bill, producers, distributors, and retailers of inappropriate and unconventional dress and markings will be regarded as offenders subject to heavy penalties.

The Cabinet also approved five different projects as well as the following: The allocation of 20 billion rials to strengthen the Armed Forces' capability and to meet extra expenses relating to the operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; the allocation of 1.01 billion rials to repair damage caused by floods in affected provinces; and the allocation of 5 billion rials for extra military operations carried out by the gendarmerie.

In conclusion, the prime minister stated the government's position regarding the bombing of a passenger train today by Iraq and said: This savage attack will not go unanswered and crimes of this kind prove that the only solution to the imposed war is the destruction of Saddam and the Iraqi 'Aflaqi regime. He went on: In operations of this kind in which civilian and innocent people are martyred one can clearly see the spying hands of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and evidence in the government's possession shows that the monafeqin, their objectives having been disappointed, are today collaborating with the enemy as dirty spies acting against their own country's people. It is necessary for the Information Ministry to make public this wicked alliance between the monafeqin and Saddam, Shah Husayn [of Jordan], and other reactionary governments in the region.

Mr Musavi also said: We shall make the Saddam regime regret committing that crime and avenge the blood of our innocent martyrs at a place that we shall choose ourselves.

Commentary on Ship Inspection in Gulf, U.S. 'Threats'

LD131422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1056 GMT 13 May 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. attempt to find excuses aimed at launching fresh attacks against progressive countries is the title of our first political commentary. A few weeks after the dastardly U.S. air raids against two Libyan cities there are indications of the Reagan Administration's overtures aimed at embarking on fresh attacks against the nations of the region.

The emergence of new tensions in relations between Syria and Britain in the aftermath of the expulsion of Syrian diplomats from London and the recent rumors of certain Israeli officials concerning the raiding of Syrian centers in Lebanon are indicative of the attempts being made by the aggressive Western countries, in collaboration with the usurping Israelis, in order to bring Lebanon under their terrorist and night attacks when the time is right, just as they did in Libya.

This was one of the topics raised between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and our country's high-ranking officials during a number of meetings. In his meetings with President Khamene'i and Prime Minister Musavi he discussed the latest regional developments as well. In another meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, having briefed him on regional issues, Faruq al-Shar' alluded to U.S. threats against Iran, Syria, and Libya as well as the plots hatched against Syria, while stressing the need for utmost solidarity by the three countries against such threats.

In the meantime a White House statement has already expressed its concern at the recent situation in the Persian Gulf and the attacks on Saudi oil tankers and has condemned the act. In another part of the statemement, read by the White House spokesman, support is expressed for what he termed as U.S. backing of its friends in the region and U.S. commitment in guaranteeing freedom of shipping.

It appears that the Reagan administration, by issuing such a statement, is trying on the one hand to present the situation in the Persian Gulf as chaotic, thus creating an appropriate psychological climate pointing to threats against Saudi Arabia's security and consequently paving the way to persuading Congress to approve the $354-million package deal with Saudi Arabia. On the other hand, the administration intends to prepare the necessary political ground to launch aggressive contingency measures against the Islamic Republic.

This is not the first time the White House has openly declared its hegemonist policy. During George Bush's recent tour of several Persian Gulf states he too stressed the very same policy in his utterances. Furthermore, the presence of U.S. warships in the Strait of Hormuz, alongside the French warships, is another facet of continued U.S. provocation in the area. In an interview granted in this connection the commander of the Islamic Republic Navy said: It has been noticed recently that these ships are causing some difficulties for our country's naval units in their inspection of the vessels carrying goods destined for Iraq. We have already warned them by various means. However, if they continue with their interference and disrupt our naval units' missions, then we will deal with them in no uncertain terms. He then said: If U.S. warships continue to escort ships carrying goods for the Iraqi regime, once we ascertain that the presence of these ships poses a threat to our interests, then we will take decisive action.

As far as the security of the Persian Gulf is concerned, the Islamic Republic's policy has been stated time and again by our country's authorities. The security of this region is indivisible; it

is a matter which must apply to all countries. As for shipping, it is natural that the Islamic Republic wishes to see all nonmilitary ships enjoying free and safe passage in the region. It is precisely because of this very policy that the Islamic Republic recognizes Iraq as the source of insecurity in the Persian Gulf; it is because of this that it is trying to eradicate this source.

Needless to say, as long as such a regime is supported through this waterway, endangering the security of the Persian Gulf states, the Islamic Republic of Iran will consider as its inalienable right, the inspection of suspicious ships that may be carrying goods destined for Iraq, in accordance with well-defined and recognized international law, and will not tolerate any obstacle in this respect.

Arab League Seen as 'Captive' of Arab Reaction

LD112034 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 11 May 86

[Station commentary from the "Iranian Armed Forces" program]

[Text] When the leaders of the seven major industrial countries met in Tokyo to study new plans for plundering other nations, the Arab League secretary general, in a message to that summit, asked them to put the Iran-Iraq war on their agenda. Chedli Klibi's move took place at a time when the Arab League itself has dozens of unsloved issues on its agenda and everyone knows that the problems facing the Arabs stem from direct and indirect interference of the same major industrial states of Europe and the United States. On the other hand, it is the presence of reactionary hireling states among the Arabs which prevents them from finding any solution to their problems. For this reason, the Arab League has abandoned the file on imperialism and Zionism's crimes against the Muslim Arab nations during the past few years. The Arab League is a captive in the hands of Arab reaction and has, therefore, never been able to adopt a decisive stance vis-a-vis Zionist agression against the Muslim nation of Palestine, the massacre of Lebanese Muslims, and even the blatant U.S. aggression against Libya. It is, thus, natural to see that this league has failed to adopt a fair stance toward the Iraqi-imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Arab League proves its helplessness when its secretary general is forced to seek a solution for the Iran-Iraq war from leaders of those states, which directly or indirectly, have had a role in creating the imposed war and its continuation. Of course, the nations have shown that they will continue their path without paying any attention to resolutions of international conferences and regular meetings of the Eastern and Western leaders. However, this fact does not reduce the burden of responsibility on the shoulders of such leagues established to represent various nations. For example, the Muslim and Arab nations expected the Arab League and its secretary general to ask the Tokyo summit to abandon its new plots for continuing aggression against Muslim nations of the Middle East, to ask the U.S. and European imperialists to recognize the rights of the Muslim nation of Palestine, and to stop their unstinting support for the occupiers of Jerusalem. It was expected to ask the summit to give up the conspiracy of reducing oil prices and to stop plundering the national resources of Arab and Muslim nations. In addition to all that, the Arab League was expected to take direct action to find a solution to problems of the Arab world, instead of pleading inability and impotence in front of the imperialists. It also was expected to adopt a decisive and fair stance without the superpowers' influence and the pressure exerted by Arab reaction.

Everyone is aware that the U.S. and European leaders will do nothing else for this war except to hatch new conspiracies. Therefore, it is totally wrong to expect them to find a solution to the imposed war. However, the Arab League could, instead of attaching some hope on major powers' intervention, adopt a fair stance based on humane and Islamic criteria and introduce the true aggressor to the world and to Muslim and Arab nations. By doing so it could pave the way for punishing and eliminating the aggressor, that is, the Iraqi Ba'th Party. This will enable the Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq to place all their resources and forces at the disposal of other Muslims and side by side they could mobilize their forces in the confrontation against global arrogance and its hireling agent in the heart of the Islamic world, that is, aggressive Zionism. The Arab League might have forgotten this aspiration, but the Muslim nations and the combative Muslim Arabs will never abandon it; and no doubt the relentless battle of the zealous nation of Iran against the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist aggressors originates from the same aspiration.

Saddam To Destroy Basra Centers if Threatened

GF141001 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 14 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Dear brothers: From the newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* we will listen to a report from Iraq concerning an order issued by Saddam to blow up important centers in Basra. The report says: Special reports from inside Iraq indicate that after Saddam despaired of finding a military means to prevent the advance of the Islamic forces, he issued an order to the military intelligence command in Basra to blow up all bridges and sensitive centers in the city in the event it is besieged or captured by the Islamic forces. A committee comprising military engineering officers, representatives of the 'Aflaqi Ba'th Party, and a representative of the People's Army forces in Basra has been formed in order to execute the order issued by Saddam.

Informed sources inside Iraq add: In the beginning, when reports were heard about plans to destroy economic and military centers inside Iraq by the ruling regime in Baghdad, no one believed them.

Now however, after Saddam has issued orders to blow up all bridges and sensitive centers in Basra if it is captured by the Islamic forces, it has become clear that Saddam has a plan in hand to destroy all Iraqi cities so that the Islamic government which will be established in Iraq after the present regime falls will not benefit from them, and secondly so that the future regime in Iraq will inherit the consequences of a totally collapsed economy which will obstruct the progress of the Islamic Revolution's march in Iraq.

Iraq Expells 200 Muslims Through Western Border

LD121214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] The Ba'thist Zionist regime of Iraq today expelled about 200 Muslim people from that country through its western borders. The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that after being informed of this action, the Iranian officials set up a headquarters in the newly developed Salas-e Babajani area and began transferring those expelled.

This report indicates that these people have been left in the mountainous and impassable regions of Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq, 12 km away from the border region.

It should be noted that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps stationed in the Darbandijan region has announced that those who have been expelled will arrive in Iran in several groups and that some of them have not yet reached the border of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRNA Reports on Fighting by Iraqi Kurds

Attack Bases in Al-'Amadiyah

LD101527 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 10, IRNA — The Iraqi Muslim revolutionary Kurds fighting against the Iraqi regime, in a recent attack on (Qarah Barah) and (Dasht Hayranah) bases in Al-'Amadiyah area of Iraq, killed six Iraqi forces and destroyed the bases, reliable reports from Iraq said. The Iraqi Kurds in this operation destroyed a military vehicle.

Meanwhile in the past few days the Iraqi Kurds attacked a police station in Irbil. They also destroyed a vehicle of the security foces in Shaqlawah, Irbil, and attacked a military base in (Dayrluk). In these attacks four of the Iraqi forces were killed.

Attack Military Centers in Dahuk

LD120956 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Orumiyah, W. Azarbaijan Prov., May 12, IRNA — Iraqi Muslim revolutionary Kurds in attacks against seven Iraqi military centers in Dahuk Province, north of Iraq, in late April killed 20 Iraqi agents and injured 17 others, it was announced Monday.

According to reliable sources from Iraq, an officer from Mawsil Province was among those who were killed in the fierce fighting in which light and semi-heavy weapons were used.

Following the attacks, the Baghdad regime shelled the pastures in the region, inflicting damage to the farmers. Meanwhile, a list of those Iraqi Muslim forces who refused to fight against the revolutionary Kurds, was reported to military tribunals.

SAIRI Chief Comments on Liberation of Al-Faw

GF110545 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chief of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] gave a press interview to the Central News Unit in Rasht. He detailed the recent developments on the war fronts and talked about the deadly blows received by the Saddam regime from the Islamic warriors during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations.

He said: The "Val-Fajr-8" operation has had a major effect in international and regional circles as well as on the internal situation in Iraq. The aggressor powers, following these successful operations, came to understand very well that the Islamic forces would never stop their activities and that none of the weaponry delivered by the world aggressors to the Iraq regime would stop the movement and progress of the Islamic forces. A victory for Islam, in favor of the Islamic Republic is a certainty.

During another part of the interview, the SAIRI chief said: Following the success of the Islamic warriors in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations the world aggressors devised new plots, one of them being the lowered price of oil.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim then talked about the SAIRI activities. He said: The offices of SAIRI are now open in the liberated town of Al-Faw. At the moment the Iraqi mujahidin are present in the marshes in southern Iraq and also in the north.

He concluded by commenting on the cooperation between the reactionary regimes in the region and the regime of the 'Aflaqi Saddam. He said: From the beginning of the aggressive war, we have witnessed that some of the reactionary regimes in the region have supported Saddam and continue this support. In reality, this support is at the request of the world aggressors. He said: The future of the war will end in Islam's favor and the Islamic Republic of Iran will be victorious.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD141103 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — In a three-pronged attack in Baghiujeh, Pich-e Angizeh, and the area between these two axes in Faqqeh operational theater, the Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded more than 300 Iraqi troops, a Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters communique said here Wednesday.

During the attack, launched late Tuesday night and continued until Wednesday morning, a number of Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers, and light and heavy artillery including mortar launchers were destroyed, it added.

Meanwhile, Iranian warplanes successfully carried out two seperate mission Wednesday morning and bombed Iraqi group bunkers and armoured and mechanized weapons parks in northwest of Faqqeh operational region, the communique said.

The Iranian warplanes after destroying a large amount of Iraqi weaponry, all returned to their bases safely, the communique added.

Hajj 'Umran Offensive 'Smashed'

LD141827 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi offensive in Hajj 'Umran Wednesday killing or wounding over 2,000 Iraqi soldiers and capturing a large number of others, 75 of whom have so far been transferred behind the fronts, Khatam ol-Anbiya' military headquarters said Wednesday.

The headquarters said that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down and over 15 tanks, several personnel carriers and a good deal of military hardware and equipment of their destroyed during the smashed offensive.

Iranian fighter bombers pounded a temporary Iraqi air strip in Diyanah used by 50 Iraqi helicopters for transferring reinforcement to Hajj 'Umran Wednesday disrupting the operation. The Iranian planes after successfully carrying out the mission all returned to their bases safely, the headquarters said.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' is the joint military headquarters of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Communique No 2,470

LD141803 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed new Iraqi oil installations and refinery in Kirkuk, at 12:34 hours GMT Wednesday, inflicting substantial damage on them in retaliation for the recent Iraqi raids on Iranian installations, according to a military communique here Wednesday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2470 says that Iranian naval units intercepted and inspected three cargo ships near the Hormuz Strait Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for the Iraqi regime.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Tuesday demolished 30 bunkers and set ablaze one munitions dump of theirs. A number of enemy soldiers were also killed or wounded, the communique says.

The communique says that artillery duels continued in the northwestern fronts raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj 'Umran and Kola Shin.

Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants forced two Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate their positions in Sumar and Kani-Sheykh to flee, the joint staff says.

In Yebis, southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian artillery fire pounded a group of 30 Iraqi tanks which were approaching their positions, destroying some tanks with their crews.

Iran's gendarmerie forces opened fire on Iraqi positions in Zobeydah and Bayat, destroying several enemy vehicles and killing or wounded a number of them Tuesday and Wednesday. One Iraqi munitions dump was also set ablaze.

Meanwhile Iraqi long range artillery fire hit the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Tuesday.

Over 400 Iraqi Casualties in Faqqeh

LD141815 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran repulsed an Iraqi attack in Faqqeh Region on Tuesday night killing or wounding more than 400 Iraqi soldiers, according to Khatam ol-Anbiya' military headqaurters, Wednesday.

The Iranian Muslim combatants destroyed over 22-plus tanks, 50 vehicles as well as 45 mortar launchers and machine-guns of the enemy in the said region.

Meanwhile, Iranian jet fighters bombarded Iraqi personnel bunkers and equipment in northwestern faqqeh operational region at 05:20, 06:45, 07:00 and 12:45 hours local time (01:50, 03:15, 03:30 and 09:15 GMT). The jet fighters returned safely to their bases after inflicting massive damage on Iraqi equipments.

New Air Base Reportedly Used in Ship Attacks

GF141848 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 86

[Excerpts] With the intensification of the war and its spreading to the throat of the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic has set up an air base at Abu Musa Island so that it can increase its attacks on foreign oil tankers. During the past month it has hit several oil tankers from this air base.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic continues to acquire arms from all parts of the world at very high costs. According to a correspondent of Voice of the Liberation of Iran, at the end of the last week 138 containers of arms were delivered by a Thai vessel at Bandar 'Abbas. The delivery included shells for 303-mm and 155-mm guns, and spare parts for the Navy.

Opposition Paper on Possible U.S. Strike on Iran

GF111758 London KEYHAN in Persian 8 May 86 p 16

["Behind-the Scene-Politics" column: "After Libya, it Is Iran's Turn"]

[Text] The recent visit of the young shah of Iran to Paris and his detailed discussions and meetings with various opposition leaders and people is being given great importance. Informed circles in Paris do not consider this visit, in the changing international atmosphere, unrelated to giving a stronger and fiercer blow to terrorism. Of course, they do not speak of this openly but they do say implicitly that after Libya, Iran is next.

Statements by President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and other high-ranking U.S. authorities have openly spoken of a military chastisement of Tehran if it can be proved that it has a hand in terrorist activities. These statements strengthen the possibility of such an action on the part of the United States.

Some higher-level Iranian opposition figures believe that it would be neither in the interest of the United States nor of Iran if things were to go as far as they did with Libya. They think that something should be done before such a situation develops.

Although there are signs that some efforts are being made within the Islamic regime to keep away from international terrorism, these efforts, in comparison to the stand taken by the majority of the regime, are too weak to move the regime to adopt a totally fresh policy. This is because any major or basic change in policy would mean that Ayatollah Khomeyni has totally lost control, or at least the hawks who wish to draw Iran toward international adventurism no longer enjoy his support. Even the most optimistic people think that there is no possibility of a change and that the ayatollah will go to the end of the path he has chosen. There are arguments against this. Some say that although the ayatollah exhibits harshness, it is in words only and that when the time comes, as in the case of the hostages, and when the opportunity demands, he will show signs of softness.

This argument has its points but it does not take into account the fact that the ayatollah today, in praising the war and its continuation, and in implicating the regime in international terrorism has gone too far to turn back without paying a high price and without completely shaking the foundations of the regime. The problem confronting the opposition is that before things go too far and out of control they must provide means for toppling the regime.

It is said that the forecast of the young shah with regard to the regime being in the grip of a big and overwhelming crisis is undoubtedly based on a proper analysis of the regime's economic, social, and political situation. It seems that there must have been some reliable information in his possession which could give strength to his analysis.

On the whole one can see some optimism among the Paris opposition circles. It is quite different from the pessimism seen inside the country which recently has been dragged outside the country.

There is talk of some new initiatives. These should be directed toward coordinating the movement of the opponents of Khomeyni on a more sound basis.

Israel Said Selling Arms To Safeguard Jews

GF100751 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Ebrahim Yazdi, a colleague of Mehdi Bazargan, has commented on the discovery of the biggest network of illegal arms sales to the Islamic Republic through Israel during a meeting of the Freedom Movement last week. He stated that the Israelis have to extend this help in exchange for safeguarding the lives of Jews living in Iran. In addition, he noted that crushing Iraq, in any manner, would be beneficial to Israel.

We remind you that Ebrahim Yazdi was foreign minister in Bazargan's cabinet. He seems to be active against the current regime with a number of others from Bazargan's cabinet, including Bazargan himself. In reality he is playing the role of safety valve for the regime. We also remind you that a while ago, following demonstrations in Tehran by Bazargan and his group in the name of the Freedom Movement, the regime's Hezbollahi elements remained silent and showed no reaction whatsoever. Even members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the revolution committees did not try to stop the meeting.

According to political analysts, the regime is trying to show that there is freedom in Iran and that it has benefited from its former prime minister, who held office during the first months of the revolution's honeymoon.

Khomeyni's Grandson Said Arrested for 'Opposition'

GF131852 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] According to a Voice of the Liberation of Iran correspondent in Qom, the son of Mostafa' Khomeyni [Hoseyn Khomeyni], who expressed opposition to Khomeyni's regime only a few months after it was established, was arrested on the afternoon of 11 May. He was removed from his residence on Keyhan Street in Tehran and taken to a special detention camp run by the Islamic Revolution Guards in Qom and placed under close watch.

Informed sources close to cleric circles opine that Hoseyn Khomeyni was arrested because of his close contacts with a group of political mongers. It is said that on several previous occasions Hoseyn Khomeyni incurred the wrath of his grandfather and was banished from the active scene.

Recently during a memorial service for his late father Mostafa' Khomeyni, his mother, who is a daughter of Ayatollah Ha'ieri, angrily ousted all Hezbollahi members and Khomeyni officials from the memorial service for her husband.

Tudeh Party Members 'Concerned' Over Purges

GF141932 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Dear listeners, today we have two reports on relations between the Khomeyni regime and the Soviet Union with regard to the Tudeh Party of Iran. First of all, Tudeh Party members inside and outside Iran are very concerned over purges within the party.

According to our political correspondent, one of the issues adopted at the 27th CPSU Congress concerned a widespread purge among the cadres of the Tudeh Party of Iran. This decision was made after a speech by 'Ali Khavari, the Tudeh representative to the congress. The congress held Tudeh members responsible for the failure of Soviet plans in Iran over the past 7 years.

It agreed, or rather stressed, the need for a purge within the Tudeh Party. It may be recalled that in the past purges in the Tudeh Party of Iran, like in all communist parties in the world, were accompanied with killings and liquidations of some of its members. Today several of Tudeh Party officials are being accused of various crimes against the party. This has caused unprecedented concern among top officials of the party.

Secondly, according to our correspondent, Jalaleddin Farsi, Mohsen Reza'i, and Mirsalim are on their way to the Soviet Union. However, the planned visit to the Soviet Union by three prominent security officials of the Iranian regime — a planning official for terrorist actions, an official from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and a security adviser to Khamene'i — has not been revealed by the regime. This visit will take place during the first half of Khordad [22 May to 5 June]

Tehran Reports Activities of Afghan Mujahidin

Destroy Soviet Troop Carrier

GF081814 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] A troop carrier of the invading Soviet forces was blown up by a mine planted by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in (Reggand) region on the first of this month. All occupants of the troop carrier were killed.

Attack Positions in Jalalabad

GF140853 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Afghan revolutionary mujahidin yesterday attacked the positions of the occupationist forces in Jalalabad City with rockets and killed six Soviet troops and downed four enemy helicopters.

According to reliable sources, a radar post and three tanks at Jalalabad Airport, which belonged to the regime that oppresses Kabul, were also destroyed during the attack.

Reports said that with a view to redeeming the attacks of the Muslims, the occupationist Soviet forces attacked a village 20 km away from Jalalabad and wounded three revolutionary Muslims.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MAY 1986

U.S. Ship Fired On

The Beirut paper *AL-SAFIR* cited by KUNA reported that a U.S. ship was fired on while passing through the Suez Canal 13 May, and revealed that the Egyptian security forces arrested a "young man" in connection with the shooting while he was driving on a road along the canal in a prohibited military zone.

Libya

The Foreign Liaison Bureau People's Committee informed the Arab ambassadors accredited to the Jamahiriyah of Libya's dismay at the Arab League's failure to convene an emergency Arab summit or to adopt practical measures to confront the recent U.S. and EEC actions, Tripoli radio reported. The People's Committee defended Libya's "principled and firm" stance regarding the "fateful" issues facing the Arab nation, including the Gulf war, and asserted that using its stance on the Gulf War as a pretext is either due to ignorance or is an "exposed attempt" to "cover up the silence, defeatism, and intrigues" characterizing the stands of some Arab countries toward the U.S.-NATO policy against Libya. The People's Committee warned that Libya will "reconsider" its "link" with the Arab League and seek "alliance" with a "power" opposed to the United States unless that organization adopts "practical" measures to respond to the U.S.-NATO "aggression," including severing ties with the United States and the United Kingdom as a minimum. The Committee also threatened a change in Libya's position vis-a-vis the Gulf war if measures are not adopted, which "in practice" would find the Jamahiriyah aligned with Iran.

"Informed sources" in Tripoli rebutted allegations by the Rome paper *LA REPUBBLICA* that Libya "had relations" with the Red Brigades, JANA reported. The agency's political affairs editor, in the same report, affirmed Libya's strong rejection of establishing ties with "terrorist" organizations, which the editor claimed are used by certain European governments to further their own aims, and asserted that the Jamahiriyah has fought and continues to fight "organized" terrorism.

Iran-Iraq War

Many Iraqi vehicles were destroyed and 200 Iraqis aboard them were killed during an Iranian artillery bombardment of the Al Basra-Abu al-Khasib military road, according to IRNA. The report claimed that the attack was in retaliation for Iraq's air attack on a passenger train 14 May. Meanwhile, another IRNA report updated the casualty figure in the train attack to 61 dead and 270 injured.

In continuing fighting in the Haj 'Umran area, a military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that over 1,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded during a "heavy" battle the night of 15 May, bringing the number of Iraqi casualties in 3 days of fighting there to more than 3,500. On the other hand, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 15 May asserted that two Iranian infantry companies were wiped out during an Iranian counterattack against positions recently captured by Iraq in that area.

In air action, a communique cited by IRNA 16 May reported that Iranian fighters bombed an Iraqi helicopter center west of Rawanduz, in Iraq's Irbil Province, and inflicted heavy materiel and personnel damage. Another IRNA report asserted that Iranian planes prevented an Iraqi fighter from violating Tehran's airspace 15 May. For Iraq's part, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio 16 May divulged that the Iraqi Air Force delivered an accurate and effective hit on a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast.

Iran-Syria

The Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN* disclosed 15 May that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has "urged" his Iranian counterpart to end "military provocations" against Gulf installations and shipping, especially those belonging to Saudi Arabia. Citing "informed Arab sources," the paper reported that the recent visit of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Iran primarily focussed upon Iran's military actions against Saudi oil tankers and the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon. "Arab diplomatic sources" in Tehran also contended that Syria "demanded" that Iran cease its actions against Saudi interests, according to *AL-BAYAN*.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper *ARAB TIMES* 14 May described current Syrian-Iranian relations as passing through a "difficult phase," and asserted that there have been "several indications" from Damascus pointing to a "real" change in Syria's position vis-a-vis the Gulf war. "Informed sources" cited by the paper expressed fears that the Iranian-Syrian "conflict" could mushroom into a "huge" confrontation between the Hizballah and Amal militias.

In other developments, the Beirut magazine *LA REVUE DU LIBAN*, citing "informed sources," alleged that Syria has detained approximately 20 Hizballah members in Ba'labakk City on charges of killing a Syrian soldier "last week," clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Syria-Israel

"Diplomatic sources" in Damascus cited by QNA revealed that Syria "will begin a diplomatic move" toward several Arab and Gulf countries to inform their leaders of the U.S.-Israeli "threats" and of the "possibility" of an Israeli-launched U.S.-backed "aggression" against it in the Golan Heights or in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley.

For Israel's part, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin termed Syria's "potential" to directly threaten Israel as "real," in a speech to the Labor Party convention, but added that Syria "is

far" from attaining "strategic parity" with Israel, IDF radio reported. In the same speech, Rabin claimed that Syria "was involved" in the Rome and Vienna airport attacks as well as in the attempt to place a bomb on an El Al airliner in London. Jeruslaem radio cited Israeli Land Forces Commander General Amir Drori's assertion that the new Syria fortifications in southern Lebanon must be viewed as another Syrian step in its preparations for war, but added that this is a "long process" not being marked by any developments.

Jordan

"Informed sources" cited by the Israeli paper *THE JERUSALEM POST* asserted that Palestinian pro-Fatah elements "dissatisfied" with the growing Jordanian-Syrian "cooperation" against the PLO "apparently" were behind the recent disturbances at Yarmuk University. The sources described the riots as an "alarm bell" for King Husayn, whose security forces had been successful until now in suppressing all "latent" unrest.

Meanwhile, final examinations at the university were suspended "until further notice," the school's Public and Cultural Relations Department announced, according to Amman television.

In an editorial on the "agonizing" incidents at the university, the Amman paper *AL-DUSTUR* urged everyone to exercise self-control and to calm the situation, and called on students to "remove" all those in their ranks that support riot and unrest. In another editorial, the Amman paper *AL-RA'Y*, while expressing profound sorrow for the victims of the fighting, nevertheless insisted that such incidents should not be repeated and declared that it should be a lesson to all those intent on tampering with the country's security or stability.

PLO

An "informed Palestinian source" claimed that Fatah, PFLP, and DFLP representatives currently meeting in Algiers have "overcome huge obstacles" in the way of a proposed "National Unity Conference" scheduled to be held in the Algerian capital during the latter half of Ramadan, KUNA reported. In another development, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, in an interview carried by Radio Monte Carlo, reported "progress" in Palestinian-Syrian relations, and predicted that "this misunderstanding" will be overcome soon. Qaddumi, who gave the interview following his talks with the French external relations minister in Paris, asserted that the PLO has "no difference" with Jordan, but only with the United States.

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf reaffirmed earlier pronouncements of a plan for a "very intensified" increase in "fedayeen" operations inside the "occupied territories," in a statement to the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS*, cited by KUNA. The Fatah official "categorically" denied that he and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil had discussed the return of Palestinian forces to Lebanon via Juniyah or any other route, during their recent meeting.

Qatar-Bahrain

"Diplomatic sources" in London cited by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN and reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service*, disclosed that Bahrain has reinforced its positions on the Harwar islands and along its coast in recent days, and cancelled all military leave. The report also noted Qatari measures against Bahrain including the deportation of Bahraini students to their country. *AL-WATAN* further claimed that the Fasht al-Dibal Island installations attacked by Qatari aircraft last month belonged to the GCC and monitored ship movements in the Persian Gulf in order to notify them of possible air strikes.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan lodged a "strong" protest with Afghanistan over a 10 May Afghan air attack on Domandi area, Baluchistan, in which 1 Afghan refugee was killed and two others were wounded, and for artillery attacks on 13 and 14 May near Parachinar, Khurram Agency and near Tiwar Kotal, respectively, according to Karachi radio.

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Najibullah Addresses Kabul City Party Meeting

LD152201 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 14 May (BAKHTAR) — Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part today in a plenary session of the Kabul City Party Committee. It was held in support of the decisions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. He delivered the following comprehensive speech:

Esteemed comrades. We have recently celebrated the 8th anniversary of the April Revolution, thus beginning the 9th year of the development of and progress for revolutionary Afghanistan. The PDPA and all the toiling people of Afghanistan are successfully continuing to implement the planned objectives and tasks of the national democratic April Revolution. National democratic, antifeudal and anti-imperialist transformations are the paths which we have chosen; we are consistently going ahead on this path. Today, we can confidently say that revolutionary process is developing in the country in the required direction. The party, by overcoming difficulties, is continuously and unswervingly implementing the objectives and aspirations of the victorious April Revolution. I should add that the PDPA, on the basis of all-round analysis and assessments, has perfected its policy and will specify and enrich the forms and methods of its implementation.

The 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum pointed out that struggle for the expansion and strengthening of the social basis of people's power, an end to bloodshed, the consolidation of peace and tranquility in the land of ancient Afghanistan, and readiness for useful and objective cooperation with all patriots and democrats of our homeland are those policy tasks and requirements whose implementation are essential for all party members and true patirots. During the 7 months after the plenum, the whole life of the party was dedicated to this task. The Armed Forces have been strengthened. Recent victorious operations in Khowst showed their significant capabilities and the new qualitative level of activity. The work for safeguarding the borders, especially those with Pakistan, is going ahead, and we have strengthened work with the tribes.

It is necessary for us to consolidate and expand these victories. At present, 64 percent of party members are armed and directly taking part in the defense of the country. We can say with pride that the PDPA is a militant party, and it is correct that our people demand from us, from party members, an immediate end to bloodshed, the crushing of counterrevolutionary elements and the consolidation of a peaceful and tranquil life. We ought to employ all measures, including military, social, economic, political and international measures in order to secure these objectives. We actively support talks for the political solution of problems around the DRA, including the Geneva talks.

The main aspect of the socioeconomic development of the DRA for 1986-90, that is, the first 5-year plan after the revolution, was approved and received legal status as a creative plan and an inspiring program for social and national progress whose special importance and great mobilizing power was stressed by the leaders of the Soviet Government during the Moscow visit by Comrade Keshtmand.

I would like here to speak about Afghan-Soviet friendship. There was not and is not such a strong brotherhood in the world. The 27th CPSU Congress once again approved our efforts in the revolutionary struggle. We give our profound gratitude to the Leninist Party and to the Soviet people — these true internationalists — for selfless and unprecedented large-scale assistance during all these years. For us party members to believe in the aims of this friendship, whose bases were laid down by our heroic fathers, is a very important criteria of our true revolutionary assessment.

Comrades, the 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum is a great event in our sociopolitical and party life. As you know, the allocation of the posts of PDPA Central Committee general secretary and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council were decided at the plenum. The plenum approved the request of Comrade Babrak Karmal to resign from the position of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee on health grounds. He remains member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and president of the Revolutionary Council.

The role of Comrade Babrak Karmal in the Sawr revolution is crystal clear. He linked all his life and activity with the PDPA. Comrade Karmal played a very great role in the work of the Central Committee plenums, the convocation of the nationwide conference of the party, and in the drafting of the 10 Theses and the Revolutionary Council Declaration.

However, the implementation of the decisions of the 16th and 17th Plenums, the speedy and serious realization of the Revolutionary Council Declaration and the reconstruction of all organizational and political work of state and party organs necessitate and demand much work, the speeding up of activity, and the assessment of situations in localities. The volume of Revolutionary Council work has greatly increased due to local elections and the consolidation of state power in localities.

Party work has also increased. Our party has become a party of 155,000 members. The leading and guiding role of the party in all aspects of society has been enhanced. The number of members of social organizations in the NFF has been increased from 50,000 to 760,000.

The plenum enriched the current process of the strengthening and consolidation of the principles of collective leadership of the PDPA. The decisions of the PDPA Central Committee Plenum has great value in the completion of state and party structure. The present expansion and type of tasks and problems demand that the role of collectivism should be enhanced in the work of the high organs of the leadership. It is necessary that the fields of activity should be divided in a logical manner so that the Revolutionary Council, headed by Comrade Babrak Karmal, can concentrate on the work of the state new organs and its leadership through the absorption of the best representatives of the country's patriotic forces; and the Council of Ministers, under the leadership of Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, can concentrate and can be devoted to the improvement of the work of the ministries and affairs related to the implementation of the economic policy of the party.

Special attention should be paid to the leadership over the broadening and consolidation of the PDPA. Of course the general secretary should devote all his energy to this task. Our party is a ruling party and the party must embrace the unity of action of all groups of our social and political system.

Because of this the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and later the 18th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee approved unanimously Comrade Karmal's proposal. All those who addressed this plenum mentioned Comrade Karmal's services to the country and the revolution and welcomed the fact that he will actively continue his duty as a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

In accordance with the proposal of the Politburo put forward by Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, the plenum unanimously approved the subject of the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. Availing myself of this happy opportunity, I thank from the bottom of my heart all party members and toilers of Kabul City for all those warm greetings which have arrived collectively and individually from the city party committee, ward committees, party primary organizations, collectives, and families. Thanks to you all dear comrades. I assure you that all my life will be dedicated as before to our beloved party, to the aspirations of the April Revolution and to our honorable and toiling people without any hesitation.

The 18th Plenum manifested the party unity, maturity, wisdom and the closeness of its ranks around the Central Committee and the increasing maturity of the leadership cadres and the continuation of its policy and the party and people's readiness to continue the sacred cause of the April Revolution until complete victory.

Comrades, V.I. Lenin taught that the role of leading fighter can be performed only by a party which is equipped with the leading revolutionary theory. Today, we have chosen the precise and clear strategy of gradual development. We have what could be sufficient for practical activities. The revolutionary party possesses the powerful weapon of theory. The action program of the PDPA and the documents of the 18 plenums of the Central Committee all comprise the solid political base and the source of our activities. The party will continue to solve fundamentally and in an all-round manner the theoretical issues of the April Revolution and its new phase. Here continuity is of special importance. We will condemn unfounded moves toward forward, blatent leftism and creeping opportunism and lack of inclination for resolute and revolutionary action according to the situation. We will not permit anyone to distort and revise our revolutionary theory and (?bring) revisionism.

Recent investigations and assessments indicate that the principal shortcoming in our work is the lack of active performance. Despite the fact that we have a profound strategy and comprehensive theory, we are weak in the tactical and practical sphere. Most of the grand thoughts and plans (envisaged) get drowned in words and remain on paper.

As a whole, in all circumstances the power of the party committees is sufficient to explain these plans to the people, but their work is insufficient for their implementation. The practical aspects have remained apart from our guidelines.

In this way a gap has been created between words and actions and signs of stagnation and retardation have emerged in various areas, which should not be there. The task of struggle against the enemies and the task of advancing revolutionary transformation are clear. We should be transformed into men of action and a party of action; we should be transformed into men of revolutionary deeds and the party of revolutionary actions. Today we need specific work; specific work and specific work again; problems grow quicker than their solutions. Many vital great issues have come up which demand solution. They should not be set aside or postponed or dragged into fruitless talk. They should be solved today!

The party members put forward some questions which relate to work with the peasants and the intensification of work with peasants in the villages. The Central Committee intends to consider these matters in its routine plenum.

In these conditions the leading role of the party and the role of the party members becomes more important. The party will, in the future, outline the strategy of movement of the party and will point out its aims and tasks. The party will consistently implement, together with the state organs and social organizations, the strategy of the tasks outlined. The party will strengthen and harden control over the execution of its plans and resolutions.

Unfortunately, our energy so far was limited to the drafting of tasks. Work in connection with the implementation of the envisaged plans was in a poor state and the control of their implementation was even worse. This state of affairs should be ended at all costs. The strength of power lies in the fact that all matters should be transformed from words to actions. Where does the effectiveness of a party organization lie? It is in its capability of formulating matters and their solution among the masses of the people.

Take as an example why the control work has been left without due supervision. Its manifestations are many. However, we do not go by the manifestations. The substance is hidden in objective reasons, first of all the lack of control and investigation of the party activity by the departments of the Central Committee, the provincial party committees, and the city committees.

Specifically, a sympathetic but unprincipled approach toward the assessment of the work of state organs and social organization is continuing to grow. Self-criticism and the principle of criticism by party members has not reached a sufficient level. Another reason lies in the level of investigation and the fear of responsibility. Negative manifestations, negative influences, tribal and relationship links and the remnants of ethnic relations, have been more openly felt in this regard. Some officials have forgotten that there is only one law in the party for all.

So why are the staffs of the party Central Committee and the provincial committees afraid of such individuals who are the relations of senior bosses; why do they flatter them? Comrades, this is a dreadful phenomenon! Kings and their lackeys knowingly divided people into clans, nationalities, and tribes, into relatives or strangers or subordinates. They had only one declared and

exploitative aim: to divide and rule. We should unite the people on the basis of honesty, justice, and principle. Our task is to nurture revolutionary and patriotic unity around the party and its Central Committee. Because of this, all possibilities exist which manifest the new political system of our Afghan society, primarily, the National Fatherland Front which was created for this reason.

In the struggle for unity the correct implementation of national policy should not be forgotten. We should respect all nationalities, clans, and tribes of our country. Ensuring the equality of rights of all nationalities, no matter how big or small they are, should embrace all aspects of our party work. Education and training, newspapers, and radio broadcasts in their mother tongues, development of the economy and culture, and taking into consideration their customs and traditions during the distribution of land and water are all elements of our realistic national policy. The state supports the traditional self-rule of the tribes, and will defend the honor, prestige, and property of each tribal family and their residential areas. We will prevent efforts aimed at sowing seeds of discord among various tribes and disrupting the historic relations between the tribes living on both sides of the border. Achieving people's unity should take place in accordance with the principled solutions of issues related to social justice.

Not only members of the Politburo and the Central Committee but every party member should fight against bribery and embezzlement. Where are we? A few years ago criminals were immediately sent to prison for a small theft, but now they are merely warned and scolded: Steal, but know your limit, and do not take more than the others. Those pickpockets who violate people's property and have stolen millions of afghanis are freely wandering about. They poison honest people and corrupt them and boast that one should live like this. How many people have received state apartments while renting out their own houses in order to accumulate wealth?

Two days ago I met the workers of Jangalak factory. They told me directly: Comrade Najib, we support the decisions of the 18th Plenum of the Central Committee, the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, and you. But when will the party finally hear and support our demands? I replied that the Politburo will hear their demands, and will support them; it will reply to everything, whether bad or good. The 17th Plenum of the Central Committee commissioned the party Control Commission to investigate all violations, and we will firmly follow this policy.

Our aim is an irreconcilable and uncompromising struggle against those who disrupt athe true and pure life. The authority of the party depends completely on the authorty and trust of every party member. The most important matter is the fact that laziness, stagnation and delays should be eliminated from the path of the practical realization of thought, standards and regulations, and of lessons to be learned, to a large extent, from experience. We need to put pressure on principled matters toward perfecting the ways and methods of work. Fear of work should not exist and we should devote ourselves to the work of the people.

Shortcomings should be strongly criticized. Criticism and self-criticism are necessary for us like air and water; only the weak staff and members are afraid of them and create obstacles in their way.

The Politburo hopes that Kabul City and its party organization will be an example for solving all the existing questions. Often we say that the capital is the heart of the country. The task of a heart, as it is known, is to move new and life-giving blood to all parts of the body. The present duty of activists of the party committee of the country's capital is to be an example for all party members throughout Afghanistan, and to in the vangaurd in the reconstruction of the party and of political work. Much work has been accomplished in recent months toward the realization of the decisions of the 16th and 17th Central Committee Plenums and 50 new party organizations have been formed. The ranks of social organizations have, to a large extent, been completed, and the social pillars of the revolutionary power are being broadened. The Central Committee thanks the toilers, party committees and responsible officials for the implementation of the state plan and the role that they and the people of Kabul City have played in strengthening the country's Armed Forces, and the performance of party cadres as devoted sacrificers to party work, and fully supports the leadership of the party city committee in this regard.

I would like to touch upon some other points: The new structuring of the party and political work is advancing inadmissibly slowly. Ideological influences have not been effected on various strata of the people. A certain section of party activists and party members have not comprehended the essence of those new demands put forward at the 16th Central Committee Plenum, that is, matters related to ending bloodshed, consolidating national reconciliation, uniting all nationalities and strata of society, eliminating counterrevolutionary secret cells, and establishing peaceful conditions.

I remember a sad story of a worker, Kaka Abdol Hamid, of the Jangalak plant, who said that his brother was killed in front of him and his property looted by the rebels in Paghman. Do not the Kabul city toilers, particularly the party members, have the power to establish order in the city suburbs and in the villages of Kabul Province? This power exists and should be rationally applied.

Recruitment in Kabul City is advancing weekly. The plan for March-April has been [as received] fulfilled.

Comrades. Begin work! We are under severe criticism. Most party organizations work in isolation from those problems that create anxiety for the people. And party members are engaged in settling personal differences and placing their friends and relations in high posts.

Despite the limited possibilities, the PDPA and the DRA are working hard to provide facilities for youths' education. In high educational establishments and in Kabul City schools almost 100,000 students are engaged in learning. However, most events and trends concerning youth should be of concern to party members. What are the reasons for the fact that only 17 percent of students in higher education establishments, 3 percent in the Medical Institute, and only 6 percent in the pedagogic institutes are members of the Democratic Youth Organization of

Afghanistan. What type of teacher do we train? The city party committee, party committees, the Ministry of Higher Education and Training, perhaps do not work sufficiently with teachers and lecturers. Great attention should be paid to Kabul University. This source of enlightenment, the foundation of which was laid 40 years ago, has trained many generations of our revolutionaries, patriots, democrats and intellectuals. We are fully aware of the benefits of intellectuals, and will pay attention to them. Elections will begin in the near future at the Academy of Sciences, and measures will be taken concerning the material interests of the intellectuals. We believe that intellectuals realize their role in revolutionary aspirations and in the revolution, and will actively and with great energy, struggle for the prosperity of their own people.

Youth should stand in the center of all training work. The forces of revolution can only be obtained from the cadres of youth and new forces. The DYOA will be 10 years old in two weeks. The DYOA is today the party's combat reservoir and assistant in the performance of its affairs. We are looking forward to the participation of our youth in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and in solving the present questions of revolution.

Moreover, the city party committees and the ward party committees, city and local jirgas, ministries, departments and the relevant branches of the Central Committee must, in the economic area, pass to specific leadership from the level of words. It is necessary that the needs of artisans, tradesmen, shopkeepers and the staff of cooperative trades should be precisely assessed and their efforts in supplying Kabul citizens with foodstuffs and primary goods at the available prices for the majority, should be directed. We realize the fact that prices have risen. We should think of how to stop them from rising further. Kabul today should have a high standard in the area of health services, cleanliness and welfare of the people.

In order to solve the most important social and economic problems of the capital, it is necessary that traders, investors and patriotic private entreprenuers should be further attracted. In the complex phases of revolutionary activities, it is necessary that the collective rationale of the party organizations should be relied upon and their opinions should be considered. Hasty conclusions and arbitrary and irresponsible explanations of the party documents and events should be prevented. The capital has always been called the core of maturity of the party cadres. And truly the people of all provinces, in order to obtain opinions and actions, turn their-eyes this way (?toward the capital). Yet more assistance should be given to the cadres and (?forces should be formed.)

You have often decided on the recruitment and call up of the party members. Let us implement this decision. We should remember that we should have a love of accomplishing this work. What sort of revolutionaries are those who are stuck to their chairs for years and years and never leave their offices? The ability to heartily accept all tasks of the party is the sign of political maturity. We shall judge individuals' loyalty to the people and revolution on this criteria.

The Politburo is confident that the Kabul City party organization in the future also, will play a special role in maintaining unity in the party ranks. Undoubtedly, today's plenum will open a new page in the life in the party organization of the capital.

There are many tasks, and talking about those talks means their implementation. [as received] The time for words is gone and the time for specific activity of every Afghan, collective, primary organization and party member has arrived. Forward with work, comrades!

PDPA Central Committee Congratulates CPCZ CC

LD160652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 15, BAKHTAR — The Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has sent a felicitation message addressed to the Central Committee of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia on the occasion of the 65th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

The message says that under the wise and principled leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic achieved great successes in economic field, therefore, Czechoslovakia stands in the rank of progressive countries of the world.

After the April Revolution, the message points out, the traditional friendly and historic relations between the parties, peoples and Governments of the DRA and Czechoslovakia were elevated on the basis of the principle of proletarian internationalism and revolutionary solidarity. It will further develop in the future in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and peace and security all over the world.

Punjab Governor Holds Talks With President

BK151609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] The governor of Punjab, Mr S.S. Ray, called the President Giani Zail Singh at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] this morning. The meeting lasted about an hour.

President's Ordinance on Commission of Inquiry

BK151607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance which provides that the government need not present to the Lok Sabha or state legislative assembly the report of the Commission of Inquiry within 6 months. The government can do so if laying of the report is not in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of the country, the security of the state, friendly relations with other countries or public interest. The ordinance amends Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act for this purpose.

The government will be required to issue a notification in the official gazette and its copy will be placed before the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly for its approval.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Union Carbide Case

BK141615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] It was officially stated in the Rajya Sabha today that it should be possible to seek enforcement in the United States of a judgment that may be given by an Indian court on the compensation to be paid for the Bhopal gas disaster. The minister of state for industry, Mr Arunachalam, said the assests of the Union Carbide Corporation, USA, necessary to satisfy our claims, are located in that country.

He was making the statement on the decision of a U.S. judge that the case be tried in India. He pointed out that the judge has coupled his decision with certain important conditions imposed on Union Carbide. The question resposing [as heard] these conditions if the case has to be tried in India had been raised by government attorneys in January last.

Mr Arunachalam said only the operative part of the decision of the U.S. judge has been received. He assured the house that the government will take prompt and effective action to deal speedily with the claims of the Bhopal victims.

After the statement, some members urged the government to ensure that the legal process in India does not take too long time. If possible, the case should be taken straight to the Supreme Court.

Border Forces Shoot 4 Infiltrators From Pakistan

BK150319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Four infiltrators who tried to enter the country from Pakistan were killed by the Border Security Force [BSF] yesterday.

According to information received in New Delhi, the BSF challenged six persons in the (Mulakot) area in Amritsar sector of Punjab. The intruders started firing at the BSF personnel who returned the fire in self-defense.

Gandhi Makes 5-Day Tour of Southern Africa

For reportage on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 5-day tour of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Tanzania, including talks on South Africa and Namibia, see the Southern Africa section of the 14 May Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

BANGLADESH

AFP Reports 13 May Village Raid by Insurgents

BK160819 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 16 (AFP) — Tribal insurgents killed at least 14 people and wounded more than 50 in a midnight raid on a village in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong hill tracts, press reports here said Friday [16 May]. Newspapers quoted official sources in Chittagong as saying that members of the outlawed Shanti Bahini insurgents raided Fatema Nagar village in Khagrachari District Tuesday. Some newspapers quoting unofficial sources said the insurgents killed more than 50 villagers, mostly Bengali settlers in the rugged hilly jungle district, and wounded more than 50.

The guerrillas made a similar raid on April 29 in the same district, killing at least 38 and wounding more than 150. The insurgents and have been active since the early 1970's demanding greater autonomy for the nearly 13,000 square kilometer (5,200 square mile) district that borders Burma and India. Officials estimate that more than 6,000 troops, settlers and insurgents have been killed.

Weeklies Banned for 'Objectionable Articles'

BK151647 Hong Kong AFP in English 1626 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 15 (AFP) — The Bangladesh martial law authorities have banned three opposition weeklies and seized copies of the latest edition of a fourth for publishing objectionable articles, an official announcement said Thursday. *EKOTA*, which belongs to the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Bangladesh, was banned for publishing an article titled "Massive Mandate Against Martial Law" after last week's general election. Two other weeklies, *SANGBADIK* and *AMADER ATHA* were banned for publishing articles against the martial law regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The authorities also confiscated all copies of the weekly *JHARNA*, which supports the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The BNP boycotted the polls, saying free and fair elections could not be held under martial law.

The governing Jatiya Party looked set for victory in the polls, with 134 of the 300 seats after 266 unofficial results had been announced by the Election Commission. Voting was suspended in 36 constituencies amid reports of fraud and violence, and re-polling is due to be complete by Monday.

NEPAL

Intimidation in General Elections Charged

BK141022 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 14 May 86

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, May 14 (AFP) — Candidates Wednesday charged that government officials had intimidated voters and taken over some polling centers during voting in Nepal's general election Monday. About 65 per cent of the country's nine million registered voters took part in the poll Monday which was seen as a crucial test of the country's 25-year-old partyless Panchayat (parliament) system. Vote counting was under way Wednesday and some voters were casting ballots after polling, interrupted Monday in several districts, was resumed. Reports said that the voting was generally peaceful but some candidates complained about the actions of government oficials.

Former Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa said that in his eastern Dhankuta constituency, the district police officer assigned to maintain order during the voting Monday had taken over polling centers in Hile, Balara and Lebcrbota. He described the situation in his district as tense, warning it could become explosive if the count went against him as he knew he had voters' strong support. A similar report was received from the district of Morang where another former prime minister, Matrika Prasad Koirala, was standing for election. Government officials had intimidated voters not to cast their ballot for Mr. Koirala, sources said.

Prominent journalist Padma Thakurathi, running for office in the southwestern Kanchanpur District, said he expected to lose the election because officials had prevented his supporters from voting. Some officials in eastern Nepal had tampered with ballot boxes while they were being transported to district headquarters, other reports said. Reports from Mahottari said that candidate Sharad Singh Bhandari had been detained by police for more than eight hours on election day Monday in an apparent attempt to intimidate his supporters. Allegations from prominent supporters of the Panchayat system of official vote-rigging differed sharply from Prime Minister Nagendra Prasad Rijal's view that there had been no irregularities. He countered the charges by saying weak candidates always complain of official interference during elections.

Voters cast their ballots Monday in 73 of the country's 75 districts which elect 112 members to the national Panchayat (parliament). King Birendra appoints a further 28 to the assembly which does not have political parties. Polling was largely peaceful, with a much higher voter turnout than is usual in developing countries, analysts said. Not all of Nepal's 9.03 million registered voters went to the polls Monday, however, as voting in two districts was postponed until later this month because two candidates died during the election campaign. Voters in the Syangja and Kaski districts will cast their ballots on May 19 and 26 respectively. Counting of the votes is done manually and final results are to be announced within two weeks, Election Commission sources said.

Former Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha is leading in his Katmandu constituency, while former Commerce and Industry Minister Parsu Narayan Chaudhury is trailing a challenger in the contest in the southwestern Dang District. Former Education Minister Fate Singh Tharu took an early lead in his western constituency of Banke.

Repolling was completed Tuesday in seven of the 26 polling centers where it had been halted Monday following technical errors and clashes between rival supporters. Repolling at the remaining centers is to take place Wednesday and Thursday.

Thapa Reported Victor

BK151340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] In Nepal, the former prime minister, Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, has been declared elected from the Dhankuta constituency. Others declared elected today are Mr Govind Dwal from the ancient town of Bhaktpur, Mr Kasinath Gautam from Ardhakanchi in western Nepal, and Mr Rudra Prasad Sherchand from northern Nepal. Of the eight results received so far, there are four new faces. Polling washeld on Monday in 73 districts for 108 seats of the partyless Rashtriya Panchayat.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Asks Quick Solution of Ethnic Issue

BK141139 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] President Jayewardene told Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit that he wanted a quick solution to the ethnic problem and that the solution should be fair and acceptable to all Lankans. Mr Dixit said that on responding to a question on the substance of his discussions with the president on Monday [12 May] night. The high commissioner called on the president soon after his return from Delhi. Mr Dixit said that he reported on discussions the Indian negotiating team headed by Minister of State P. Chidambaram had with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and others. The Indian Government felt that Colombo's formulations were progressive and wanted a few additional ideas to help improve the package. He also conveyed India's concern about the escalating scale of violence and made specific reference to the condemnation of bomb attack on the Air Lanka jetliner and the CTO [Central Telegraph Office]. He said he urged the government to work out a quick solution which will end the violence.

Tamil Group Agrees To Hold Ethnic Talks

BK141137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] is reported to have indicated that it is willing to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. LANKA PUWATH quoted well-informed sources as saying that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam led by Prabhakaran, who were against the settlement of any kind, were now trying to eliminate the EPRLF.

Security Measures Stepped Up Due to Terrorism

BK151439 Hong Kong AFP in English 1406 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Colombo, May 15 (AFP) — Extra security measures have been put in place in Sri Lankan public buildings to counter possible bomb attacks by militant Tamil separatists, the government announced Thursday. "Make no mistake. The terrorists are waiting to strike again," National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said at a press conference. The Sri Lankan Defense Minsitry has ordered all government departments, schools, banks and state offices to implement new security guidelines drawn up by defense officials, the national secuirty minister said. The tightened security precautions follow bomb attacks by Tamil militants on an Air Lanka jetliner at Colombo International Airport on May 3 and on a central telecommunications complex four days later. More than 30 people died in the bombings.

Mr. Athulathmudali also confirmed that the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), with support fro the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), two of the many militant groups campaigning for an independent Tamil state, were responsible for the Air Lanka bombing. Seventeen people, mainly West European vacationers, died when the Air Lanka jetliner exploded shortly before takeoff. Mr. Athulathmudali said that the government expected more bomb attacks by militants, especially TEA, LTTE and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) guerrillas. The LTTE is determined to wreck all peaceful efforts at settling the ethnic issue, Mr. Athulathmudali said, adding that it must be made very clear to the organization that a military victory is not possible. Recent factional fighting in the Jaffna peninsula between the LTTE and a rival group, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), has increased support there for a peaceful resolution of the Tamil question, he added. But current negotiations through Indian mediation should be carried out at the informal level rather than through formal discussions, he said.

Reminding newswmen of this week's terrorist attack in Jakarta and earlier rocket attacks in Tokyo, Mr. Athulathmudali said that democratically-elected governments must help other democratic governments fight terrorism. "We must move on a broad front against terrorism," he said, adding that the British Government and others had been helpful to Sri Lanka in this effort.

Mr. Athulathmudali also said that while the Sri Lankan Government has had no formal contact with the South African Government, there have been trade contacts. He was answering a question about the reported purchase of weapons from South Africa for the armed forces.

The national security minister also disclosed that the LTTE has acquired some new weapons, but said he did not believe it has obtained SAM-7 missiles.

Further Reportage on Iraqi Attack on Passenger Train

Iraqi Positions Hit in Retaliation

LD151356 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 15, IRNA — Iranian artillery shelled Basra-Abu al-Khasib military road Wednesaday night destroying scores of Iraqi trucks with enemy troops aboard them in retaliation for a Wednesday air attack on an Iranian passenger train. The Iraqi convoy was carrying troops to reorganize the seventh corps, stationed in Al-Faw Peninsula, when it was reconnoitered and shelled.

Iraqi warplanes raided an Iranian passenger train near Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Wednesday martyring and wounding hundreds. In the retaliation attack at least 10 Iraqi vehicles were destroyed and 200 enemy soldiers aboard them killed.

The shelling was the first measure taken by Muslim forces of Iran in retaliation for the Iraqi air attack on the train.

Velayati on UN Note

LD151202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Following Iraq's repeated violation of humane principles and its attack on a passenger train that martyred and wounded a number of our dear compatriots, our correspondent has interviewed Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati. As you are aware, the Iraqi regime, by attacking a passenger train yesterday evening, has martyred and wounded a number of our civilian compatriots. Would you please explain what steps are being taken in order to expose such Iraqi moves?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In this connection we have sent a note to the UN Secretary General, and steps have been taken to contact the Nonaligned Movement. There have also been some consultations, and notes have been prepared for the Red Cross and other international forums; we have asked them to condemn this move decisively. Of course, our people know that this aggressor should be confronted by relying on popular forces and the succour of Almighty God, as they have successfully demonstrated so far. Ultimately, this will lead to our victory against the aggressor.

At the same time, it is our political task to expose the true face of this aggressor in the international arena who has attacked the territory of the Islamic Republic. On the other hand, officials of some countries, who are not aware of this regime's nature, ask us to terminate the war. Our reply has been the same: As long as this regime remains in power, the region will not see any peace. It might be difficult to justify such a remark to these officials unless we can present some facts and clear examples on the nature of this regime in international arena. By doing so we can prove our righteous stance to the countries and nations of the world. [end recording]

UN Asked To Investigate

LD151525 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry here Thursday called on the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to dispatch a delegation here and investigate Iraq's bombing of a passenger train. Four Iraqi war planes attacked an Iranian passenger train in Hasht-Tappeh, Khuzestan Province three times and martyred and wounded more than 300 people. Several houses were also destroyed during the raid.

Earlier Iran's representative to the United Nations Seyyed Rajaie-Khorasani had told a news conference in New York that the Iraqi attack was an "unprecedented criminal attack... which will not be allowed to go unpunished."

Railways Chief Interviewed

GF151522 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Mr Afshar, chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's railways, was interviewed by the correspondent of the Central News Unit. He gave details and the latest news on the dastardly attack by aircraft of the Saddam regime upon the passenger train and civilians of Haft Tappeh.

He said: Yesterday at 1615 [1345 GMT], the first express train from Ahvaz to Tehran was attacked in Haft-Tappeh station by planes of the aggressive Iraqi regime. As a result of this savage act, a number of innocent passengers on the train and workers at the station, as well as families living in nearby houses, were martyred. Included among the martyrs were women and innocent children who lost their lives, totally defenseless against the fire.

He commented on the number of casualties of this horrendous crime by the ruling regime of Baghdad and said: According to reports, 17 workers of the railways and their families were martyred. Nearly 60 civilians, including passengers aboard the train and those living in Haft-Tappeh, also lost their lives in this heartbreaking incident. The blessed bodies of these martyrs were pulled out of the fires engulfing the remains of the train cars. The number of wounded has reached 250. They were taken to medical centers by local rescue workers and rescue teams from the railways.

The chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's railways said: Through the efforts of the technical staff at the railroad offices, the rail lines at the station have been repaired. At present the rail services between Tehran and Ahvaz are open. Passenger trains are continuing their normal services.

He stated that such criminal actions by the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq are the result of the weakness of Saddam and his total inability to confront the forces of Islam on the fronts.

He commented on the protest by Iran's railway services to international bodies and said: The Iranian railway services have sent a detailed telex to railways and members of the International Union of Train Services condemning the dastardly act of the

Iraqi regime which shows that regime's disregard for accepted humane and international laws. Iran has asked the chiefs of all international railways to condemn this type of terrorism which threatens security in transportation. These bodies have been asked to mention this horrifying crime in international circles to prevent this type of dangerous action.

61 Dead, 270 Injured

LD151433 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 15, IRNA — The casualty toll of the Wednesday's Iraqi raid on an Iranian passenger train reached 61 martyrs and 270 wounded Thursday Morning. Rescue teams are still busy taking out bodies of the victims out of the charred debris of the train compartments.

A large number of people whose relatives had been in the bombed train have gone to Hasht-Tappeh station to identify bodies of their families. Identification of martyrs has been difficult due to severe skin burns. People who have rushed to help the wounded are still searching among houses of railway staff in Hasht-Tappeh devasted in the bombing.

Meanwhile in Tehran director general of the Iranian railways, Sadeq Afshar sent a message to his foreign counterparts, members of the International Union of Railways, calling for the condemnation of the Iraqi bombing of the train. In his message the general director called for condemnation of such "terrorist acts which endanger the security of transportation." Afshar also expressed hope that the Union would take "immediate measures to restore the security of trains and passengers."

In another development from a hospital in Ahvaz, an injured passenger Layla Khadem, 9, told IRNA that she was at home when she heard a terrifying blast. She said her house was destroyed and her family transferred to hospital. Another wounded girl Layla Ismaili, 12, said she had witnessed the train being bombed by Iraqi planes and her house destroyed. Layla Ismaili has four brothers and three sisters whereabouts of whom, exept a sister, is unknown. Houses in the vicinity of the bombed train were destroyed when Iraqi war planes raided it in Hasht-Tappeh, a small town 87 kilometers north of Ahvaz and 20 kilometers south of Shush in Khuzestan Province.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD161218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] On the Friday of the holy month of Ramadan fasting Muslim compatriots today held the religious-political Friday prayers ceremonies throughout the country. The citizens of Tehran with their presence at Tehran University and the neighboring thoroughfares also performed the Friday prayers ceremonies today under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The Friday imam of Tehran in his second sermon recalled the great role of the clergy in the tobacco movement and said: In that movement, colonialist British imperialism faced the great spiritual might of our clergy and nation — something that stems from the power of Islam — and it was brought to its knees. For the same reason, the present fear that global arrogance is experiencing with regard to the Islamic Republic is something natural. This is because it has become aware of the power of Islam and source of emulation of Islam.

The Friday imam of Tehran went on to describe colonial plots against Islamic nations in the course of history and recalled the anniversary of the occupation of Pales'ine by the regime occupying Al-Quds [Jerusalem]. He sharply criticized the silence of the reactionary Arab governments toward the acts of aggression by the regime occupying Al-Quds. He said: In order to fight Islam, world powers have no alternative but to strengthen Israel. The reactionary Arab governments who claim that their silence in the face of Israel's aggressions is backed by their nations will find out, if they hold a referendum, that most Arab nations are determined to wage an armed struggle against Israel and bear all resulting difficulties.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council went on: The same Arab states that made it possible for Israel to engage in further aggression against Arab territories are now telling us to make peace with Saddam. They want us to make peace with a Zionist enemy to enable it to prepare itself for further acts of aggression. Arab states must know that the obligation in the face of acts of aggression by Israel and by the Zionist Iraqi regime is one thing, namely, resistance to and struggle against those two regimes. The PLO, too, must embark upon true struggle against the regime occupying Al-Quds rather than making deals through diplomatic means.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council recalled the Iraqi air raid on a passenger train and noted: Islam does not allow us to [words indistinct]. The Iraqi air raid on a passenger train stems from its military weakness and desperation of the Zionist Iraqi regime. If it could withstand our Armed Forces it would not have attacked our passenger train. We shall avenge the blood of the martyrs of the passenger train.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to Iraqi air attacks on residential and civilian targets. He said: We are better prepared now than last year to strike at the heart of Baghdad. Our nation becomes stronger in the face of pressure and threat, as it demonstrated in the monumental march on the occasion of the International Al-Quds Day last year.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin then turned to America's threats in the Persian Gulf. He stressed: We shall regard any American aggressive presence in the Persian Gulf as a war against our nation, and if necessary we shall deliver our blows at the body of the great satan.

Majlis Speaker Reviews Defense Council Meeting

GF160808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council in a meeting yesterday evening discussed the general situation at the battlefronts and the future of the imposed war. At this meeting Quds security

battalions, money allocations for the Armed Forces, arms purchases for defense purposes, and certain other purchases were discussed. After the meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Supreme Defense Council spokesman, gave an interview to our correspondent on the imposed war. We draw our listeners' attention to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, please tell us what topics were discussed at the Supreme Defense Council meeting and what were the results?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We discussed the situation at the battlefronts, the operations, and the future course of war. The Quds battalions for security were discussed, and a report on this by an advisory committee was discussed. Another topic discussed concerned monetary allocations for the Armed Forces and arms purchases for defense purposes and other consumer purchases.

[Correspondent] As we are aware, after the successes achieved in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations the Iraqi Army has (?expanded) its operations at the frontlines in the northern and southern sectors. What is the opinion of the Supreme Defense Council regarding these new (?actions) by the Iraqi Army?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We did not discuss this particular matter. However, I personally feel that after the recent defeats sustained by Iraq in the "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Farj-9" operations, it must face the question of its military credit, which has been shattered. The other factor could be the slowing down of its supporters, who (?are beginning to doubt) the survival of Iraq, and that of the survival of the Ba'thist Party. Another reason may be that they doubt their future. Now, the way we have chosen — the mass mobilization under orders of the imam — seems to have been our only choice [words indistinct] (?seeing this) they must be convinced that we still have enough power. (?Iraq) now wants to restore its lost credit. [Words indistinct] as we understand all these Iraqi actions amount to bravado. Iraq is certainly under pressure and is helpless. It seems Iraq has been forced to take such actions, such as attacking a train behind the battlefronts. Iraq also hit the cities [words indistinct] Iraq is in fact in dire straits. Such adventurism is an escape from the difficulties Iraq faces. Iraq, it seems, wants to raise dust and noise through which it may find a means to escape. [Words indistinct] we have made plans, we have mobilized our forces so that we may achieve our objectives. However, all of Iraq's adventurism is not likely to last for long because we believe it will not have the means to continue such acts for very long. We will continue our programs as before, according to the times and place set for them. We believe that there are no obstacles in our way.

[Correspondent] As you have already said, in view of the Iraqi attacks on the nonmilitary targets — which occurred several times, like the recent Iraqi attack on the passenger train — what would be the government's position on crushing such Iraqi attacks?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are forced to defend our policy of similar retaliation. We have adopted this policy as part of our defense system. When defense needs dictate, we must do what Iraq has done against us. This would convince them that we have not neglected our defense. For example, our recent air raid on the Kirkuk oil installations, which no doubt is a sensitive point in Iraq, or attacking it a few more times, should convince Iraq what the future holds. Such attacks would cut Iraq's oil production. This attack was also in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on our economic and oil centers. We retaliated. We must also respond to the attack on the train. Whatever they do, we will retaliate.

[Correspondent] Recently certain U.S. officials have been saying things about this region, and especially about our country. Although there have been similar statements before, we would like to hear your views on the very recent events.
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not consider this matter something new, because as regards terrorism, the Americans are very much involved, and so are their friends. If one must define terrorism, the Americans and the Western countries will have front row seats among the accused. We do not believe that the Americans would involve themselves with Iran in direct confrontation. They are aware of Iranian power; they know the influence enjoyed by the spiritual leader of Iran. They know that forces around the world would make sacrifices for Iran. We do not believe that they would be naive enough to involve themselves in a new adventure. However, such propaganda is food for Americans. They use propaganda to achieve certain ends and objectives. These are colonial objectives. They must malign certain countries. These imperialist media are waging wars of nerves. At certain times they might also engaged in adventurism — hence the need for such propaganda. We hope that the Americans will have know enough not to take such risks, but we are quite prepared that should they take such naive actions or involve themselves, we would be able to defend ourselves. In fact, we do not think there will be such an occasion.

[Correspondent] As we are aware, there have been much propaganda and threats against Syria — our brother country — by the Zionist regime and the United States. What is the Iranian position should Israel attack Syria?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is natural that we would support Syria. We would render all possible help to Syria.

[Correspondent] A last question on the Iraqi violations of Iranian air space: Please tell us your views on this matter.
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I have already said, Iraq, under pressure, might again start a war against our cities. I cannot say at the moment if recent actions might be the beginning of such a war. Whatever Iraq has done this time, it must know that our own capabilities for a war of cities are much greater than they were before. In fact, some of our guns can now reach about 50 km into Iraqi territory. Iraq knows that we could hit Umm Qasr or (Al-Sha'iriyah). Iraq should know that we have modern artillery. Iraq also knows our rocket capability. It has seen our air capability. We can hit Baghdad if we want to, like Kirkuk, which we hit yesterday. Iraq knows all this. However, this does not mean Iraq will not take up new adventurism.

We believe that since Iraq is under pressure and is in dire straits, it could lose its balance and engage in foolish actions. We hope such an occasion will never arise, and that the situation will remain as it is — apart from certain rare incidents. However, if such an occasion does arise we will, against our will, put our plans into action, although we would regret such actions. But what else could we do? If Iraq leaves us no alternative and forces us to take

up such defense actions, we will do so. If Iraq forces us, we will do it. [end recording]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Black Out in Tehran

LD151714 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Anti-aircraft guns in Tehran went into action Thursday evening during a fifteen minute black out. No bombings has been reported.

An Iraqi warplane which tried to violate the airspace of the Capital Thursday was forced to flee by tactical movement of Iranian jet fighters, reports reaching here said.

Iraqi warplanes last bombed an oil installations in Tehran May 7 Martyring five civilians and wounding a number of others.

Iraq had agreed to a U.N.-sponsored initiative to cease military attacks on civilian areas June, 1984.

Further on Black Out

LD152105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] At 2015 this evening a red alert was sounded in Tehran and the city was blacked out. An informed military source said in an interview with IRNA about the reasons for the alert. Following the report about a suspicious object approaching Tehran's airspace, suspected to be an enemy aircraft, the red alert was sounded in order to prevent possible danger and confrontation of the enemy intrusion. The military source added: The condition was reported normal when the absence of any danger was ascertained.

Attack on Haj 'Umran Repulsed

LD151208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] According to a report of the Khatam ol-Anbiya', the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolutiom Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave combatants of Islam, in continuation of yesterday's heavy battle in the Haj 'Umran operational sector which fully replused the enemy's desperate move in this region and annihilated their forces, last night and this morning fully crushed all enemy moves in this sector, thanks to their unprecedented vigilance and steadfastness.

During last night's clashes, in addition to destroying several more battalions of the Iraqi defeated Armed Forces, hundreds more enemy troops were either killed or wounded, bringing to over 2,500 the total number of the enemy losses during the clashes over the past 2 days in the Haj 'Umran operational sector. Right now, many enemy corpses from these clashes are visible on the heights and valleys of the region.

Also last night, the warriors of Islam captured several more enemy troops among whom there are several Iraqi officers and NCO's. During yesterday's clashes, the warriors of Islam, in addition to destroying up to 50 percent of two commando brigades from the 1st and 7th Corps of the Iraqi Armed Forces, smashed and routed the 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions of the 433d Brigade; 2 battalions from the 431st Brigade; 1st 2d, and 3d Battalions from the 604th Brigade; and one battalion of the 703d Brigade of the forces of Baghdad's Ba'thist-Zionist regime. Heavy losses were inflicted on these battalions.

Further Details on Haj 'Umran

LD161123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in continuation of clashes between the blasphemy-smashers of the monotheist army and the godless Saddamist forces in the Haj 'Umran region, the ever-victorious forces of Islam, killed or wounded over 1,000 troops of the defeated Iraqi Army last night in the course of a heavy battle by attacking the positions of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Baghdad's forces, destroying enemy equipment, weaponry, and communication facilities. Thus, the total enemy casualties in the course of the past 3 days' clashes in the operational sector of Haj 'Umran is more than 3,500.

Also, in the course of last night's operations, a further number of enemy troops were captured by the combatants of Islam, and up to now 15 of them have been transferred behind the fronts. In last night's operations by the combatants of Islam the latter also succeeded in destroying the Al-Ta'min Command Battalion of the disintegrated Iraqi forces and inflicted some deadly blows on the 89th and 431st Infantry Brigades of the enemy.

Communique No 2,471

LD151755 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Iranian naval forces intercepted and inspected a cargo ship sailing under foreign flag near the Hormuz Strait Wednesday but allowed it to continue voyage after being satisfied that it was carrying no Iraq-bound goods, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2471 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the navy continued its special and defensive sea patrols Wednesday.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Iranian artillery fire set ablaze some Iraqi positions, destroyed two trucks and inflicted losses to enemy. Reconnaissance flight of Iraqi helicopters and warplanes in these fronts were also checked.

It said artillery duels continued in the southern fronts raging more heavily in Sharhani, Bejliyeh and Zobeydah. At 03:10 hours Wednesday (12:40 hours GMT Tuesday) Islamic forces of Iran captured the first embankment and headquarters of an

enemy battalion in Sharhani, the communique said. Iranian patrols, the communique said, infiltrated enemy positions in a part of the southern front and set ablaze a fuel tank and one munitions dump. The patrols all returned to their bases safely.

In Eynkhosh, southern fronts, an Iraqi patrol units was shelled and forced to flee after sustaining casualties and losses, the communique said.

In Hoseyniyeh and Chananeh, Iraqi tanks fire were silenced and engineering operations of enemy forces halted, according to the communique.

The communique said over the past few days, Iraq's Sho'ibiyeh military base and Al-Harithah power station have been hit by Iranian long range artillery fire.

Meanwhile, Iraqi artillery fire on the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, damaged 29 houses and shops as well as one mosque.

Iraqi Helicopter 'Center' Bombed

LD160858 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit a concentration center of Iraqi helicopters in Rawanduz, Irbil Province north of Iraq, at 06:15 local time (02:45 GMT) Friday. A joint staff communique released here said that the bombed area was 10 miles west of Rawanduz by coordinates of 36.39 degrees north and 44.32 degrees east. The Iranian fighter-bombers inflicted heavy damage and casualties on the Iraqi forces and all returned to their bases safely, the communique added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq captured the Iranian town of Mehran and four towns and villages in a 17 May offensive in the central sector and inflicted "very large" casualties on the Iranians, the Iraqi command announced in communiques broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. A communique cited by the radio also claimed that six mountain peaks overlooking Mehran basin were liberated while an INA report disclosed that two more peaks were captured 18 May, according to a "high-ranking" Iraqi military commander. The II Army Corps commander asserted to INA 18 May that Iraq seized 250 square km of Iranian territory in the offensive and wiped out the Iranian forces there, pursuing the remainder to the "strategic" Khani Dam. On the other hand, IRNA reported 19 May on an Iraqi "retreat" from the southern part of Mehran 18 May during a "heavy" battle in which the Iraqis sustained many casualties and lost 45 tanks and personnel carriers. The report noted that fighting was continuing in Mehran, which the report admitted had been "taken" by Iraq 17 May. The agency also cited a 19 May military statement on two Iranian air raids on Iraqi positions in that area. Earlier, on 18 May, an Iranian military spokesman cited by the agency claimed that Iraqi forces had been pushed back 5 km, although admitting that Iraq controlled heights adjacent to Mehran. IRNA reported 17 May that an Iraqi counterattack was repulsed in that region, with some 300 Iraqis killed or wounded and at least 35 Iraqi tanks and vehicles destroyed.

An Iraqi communique announcing Iraq's capture of Mehran insisted that Iraq does not "covet" Iranian territory, and would therefore withdraw from Mehran if Iran met one of two conditions: acceptance of the principle of "complete, comprehensive, and unconditional withdrawal" to the international borders as part of a comprehensive peace, or Iran's withdrawal from the Al-Faw triangle.

In more action in the Haj 'Umran area, a military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that three Iraqi planes were shot down 17-18 May while 28 Iraqi helicopters were destroyed from 15-18 May. The radio also disclosed that Iranian fighters bombed Iraqi positions near Rawanduz in northeastern Iraq 18 May, inflicting "heavy" casualties. In other air action, an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio reported that Iraqi planes raided bridges in West Azarbayjan Province and northwest of Dehloran 18 May, while an Iranian communique cited by IRNA the same day reported that an Iraqi plane involved in the attacks was downed.

One hundred Iraqis were killed and a "large number" were wounded during a 15 May Iranian operation in the Panjwin region, southeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah, according to IRNA.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's opposition to terrorism during his interview with U.S. journalists, which was carried by Damascus television 18 May. Referring to the recent attempt to blow up an El Al airliner, he maintained that Syria refuses to undertake acts against civil aviation, considering such actions "cowardly and inhuman." Asked about alleged Syrian support for Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, Al-Asad said he does not personally know Abu Nidal, who "does not exist in Syria" and whose only facility in Syria is a "cultural and political" office manned by two representatives.

On relations with the United States, Al-Asad accused President Reagan of "throwing verbal bombs" and "waging a war" against Syria. Current U.S. leaders "are talking too much" and should weigh their words more carefully, he said, contrasting this unfavorably with the "reasonable" U.S.-Syrian dialogue that occurred during the Nixon and Carter administrations. He condemned the U.S. raid on Libya as an attempt to assassinate the Libyan head of state, asserting that the U.S. planes targeted and destroyed a guest house in Tripoli because U.S. intelligence information was based on the misconception that the house was still used by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The U.S. raid on Libya also "greatly complicated" Syria's efforts to secure the release of U.S. and French hostages in Lebanon, the president stated, adding that Syria will do everything possible to secure their release.

Al-Asad also downplayed reports of Syrian-Israeli military tension, stating that there is "nothing unusual on the ground from our side or Israel's side." While accusing the Israelis of threatening Syria, he acknowledged that they are now "inclined toward calming down the situation." For its part, Syria is not planning to attack Israel but seeks to achieve military "parity," without which it will be difficult to achieve peace. Asked about the tripartite agreement in Lebanon, Al-Asad affirmed that Syria "will not object" if the parties involved seek to amend the agreement and he predicted that the road to Lebanese national accord will "reopen." The United States should stop obstructing the agreement because there is no U.S. interest in preserving the current situation, which provides a suitable climate for terrorism, he stressed.

The Syrian leader described relations with Iran as "good," confirming that the foreign minister's recent visit to Iran was linked with Syria's "continued efforts not to allow the scope of the Iraq-Iran war to expand to other countries." He denied that Syria's current problems with the Lebanese Hizballah are linked to any misunderstanding with Iran, noting that the disagreement with Hizballah stems from the latter's kidnapping activities.

In another development, the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN* reported 17 May that Al-Asad paid a secret visit to Moscow 15 May to discuss the Syrian-Israeli tension with Soviet leaders,

according to KUNA. As for Syria's military preparations in southern Lebanon, the Israeli defense minister disclosed 18 May that small Syrian forces are continuing fortification work but the Syrian Army has stopped its "creeping" movement southward toward the Israeli border, *DAVAR* reported.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio announced 17 May that it had been informed by an anonymous caller that the "Islamic Group" had liquidated "all" foreign hostages in the group's custody. However, the French hostages will be released shortly, according to an NBC report cited by the radio 19 May, which added that there have been no developments regarding the U.S. hostages.

After a 16 May meeting between President Amin al-Jumayyil and the new Soviet ambassador, Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources said the latter told Al-Jumayyil that the USSR is ready to support a peace initiative and to help improve Lebanon's relations with Syria, AFP reported. The ambassador subsequently returned to Moscow for "urgent talks," Beirut radio noted, adding that "a decision has been made to hold Lebanese-Soviet negotiations to determine what the USSR can do to help Lebanon."

Libya-Egypt

JANA alleged that an Egyptian espionage network operating inside Libya placed transmitters on Jamahiriyah territory helping to guide the U.S. planes that bombed Tripoli and Banghazi last month. The agency's editor asserted that this "abominable, traitorous, subversive" action is "clear proof" of Egypt's complicity in the "Zionist crusade plan." On the other hand, the Cairo paper *MAYU*, in an article to be published 19 May and cited by MENA, asserted that this Libyan "claim" is an attempt to cover up its failure to convince the pilot of an Egyptian F-16 to defect with his plane and fly to the Libyan base at Tobruk. The paper revealed that the Egyptian pilot informed Egyptian intelligence of the plot, thus allowing them to foil it and to arrest the Libyan agent. In further reaction, the Cairo paper *AKHBAR AL-YAWM*, cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, denied the Libyan "slander" and claimed it was a pretext for "possible measures" against Egyptians working in the Jamahiriyah.

While reporting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's congratulatory message to Israel on that country's founding anniversary, JANA warned that like Anwar al-Sadat, Mubarak "will pay the price of treason to the Arab cause." In a communication with ANSA, Mubarak was "sentenced to death" by the "virtually unknown" "Al-Aqsa" group which, in a communique, said the president is an ally of the "terrorist Reagan and the Tel Aviv scum."

Pakistan-DRA

In a news conference in Geneva, the UN secretary general's personal envoy to the talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, announced that the two sides agreed to extend their talks into a third week and revealed that an "understanding" had been reached on two undisclosed "major" issues, Karachi radio reported. Cordovez asserted that the understanding has generated "bright prospects" for progress at the talks.

Meanwhile, the radio reported that an Afghan Air Force plane was downed and another was hit when four Afghan planes attempted to violate Pakistani airspace near Parachinar 17 May. In a 19 May report, Karachi radio, citing the Pakistani Air Force deputy chief, reported that the downed plane was an SU-22. The radio also reported 17 May that Pakistan would lodge a "strong" protest with Afghanistan over the incident.

Kabul radio disclosed that the DRA "resolutely" rejected Pakistani accusations of attacks on Pakistani territory on 5, 8, 9, 10, and 13 May, and termed them "groundless."

Jordan

All of the students detained in the recent disturbances at Yarmuk University have been released on King Husayn's orders, Amman radio reported, adding that final examinations will proceed as scheduled. The radio also revealed that Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has set up a ministerial fact-finding committee to ascertain the reasons behind the university clashes.

In another development, Radio Monte Carlo cited Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib's announcement that the government has "detained" a number of persons for the sake of "safeguarding" national security. "Informed sources" in Amman cited in the same report speculated that the 17 detainees belong to the banned Jordanian Communist Party.

Qatar-Bahrain

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir opined that the differences between Qatar and Bahrain will be settled within "2 weeks," KUNA reported 17 May. On the other hand, "well-informed sources" cited by the Al-Shariqah paper *AL-KHALIJ reported "complications" in the Fasht al-Dibal* dispute, and suggested that failure to reach an "immediate solution" will raise questions regarding the GCC's future. In another development, the London paper *AL-DUSTUR*, citing "well-informed sources" reported by the Manama paper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ*, asserted that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati assured his Qatari counterpart that Iran "will protect" Qatar in its dispute with Bahrain.

Sudan

The Lakes Province governor and seven other persons were killed 18 May when the military plane they were flying in was hit over the Rumbek area by a SAM-7 fired by "outlaws," according to a military source cited by SUNA.

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Pakistani Claims of Border Violations Rejected

LD171556 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 17 May (BAKHTAR) — The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1100 today and the following points were made to him by the director of First Political Section:

The Pakistani Government has once again made accusations that the DRA Armed Forces violated on 5 May 1986 the region of Pewar (?Defile) and (Shadalsal) near Parachinar; on 8 May 1986 the Khurram Agency region; on 9 May 1986 the Koti post; on 10 May 1986 the Dobandi region in Chaman; and on 13 May 1986 the Teri Mangal region in the Khurram Agency.

After an all-round assessment, the DRA Government considers these claims as groundless and untrue. It resolutely rejects these claims and states that the Pakistani authorities should end such lies which do nothing but aggravate the border situation.

Najibullah Addresses Northern Tribal Leaders

LD162243 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 15 May 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, today met with the elders, leaders, and representatives of the working people of the northern provinces in the Storay palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We now draw your attention to a speech delivered at this meeting by Comrade Najibollah:

[Begin recording] I am extremely delighted to meet with you, the elders, leaders, and youth of the honorable, working, and courageous nationalities of the northern regions — the Uzbek, Turkmen, and other nationalities. The Uzbeks and Turkmen have lived, worked, and fought in ancient Afghanistan, in our ancestral homeland, together with other nationalities, clans, and tribes. Their history, culture, and destiny have been the same.

In order to ensure the full legal and economic equality of the nationalities, including the Uzbeks and the Turkmens, the DRA Government has taken a number of steps. Schools in the Uzbek and Turkmen languages have been established in order to overcome illiteracy. Newspapers and publications have been commissioned to strengthen the culture of these nationalities. Similarly, other measures aimed at ensuring the equality of rights, (?such as) mass media, radio and television, have [words indistinct] the lives of our Uzbeks and Turkmens. These are all good and correct. However, you esteemed cormades should know that these are not sufficient. The PDPA and the DRA Government should take further broad, firm, specific, and practical steps in accordance with the requirements of the present phase of the national democratic revolution. [applause] The queston of equality and brotherhood should not be (?generalized) in mere words and phrases. We know from the history of progressive and advanced nations of the world that precise, scientific, practical, specific, and constructive steps should be taken aimed at ensuring the equality of rights of the nationalities.

Noble compatriots, it is true that the [words indistinct] process of legal equality and true equality needs time. It is true that this issue is linked with the process of social development and of maintaining social and economic justice in the country, and these cannot be separated. It is true that in the conditions of the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan, the issues of crushing the counterrevolution, strengthening the Armed Forces, securing the borders, expanding and consolidating state power, defending the country's independence, national sovereignty, and freedom are important. But we cannot forget for a moment that in the process of the evolution of progressive (?tasks) we cannot leave social and political tasks aside. [applause]

We firmly believe that this country will be (?reconstructed), and that all of us will raise the victorious banner of this country on the victorious peaks of this homeland. [applause] And we will live like brothers. Our Afghanistan will be beautiful, prosperous, and proud. May you also be prosperous, proud, and successful. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Najibullah Addresses Air Garrison on Revolution

LD172225 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 May 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, this morning visited the various sections of Bagram air garrison. Having taken part in the meeting of officers, soldiers, and officials of that command, he commended the role of the heroic DRA Armed Forces in defense of national independence, territorial integrity, and the lofty objectives of the April Revolution.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Comrade Najibullah arrived about 0900 this morning at the Bagram airport accompanied by Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and defense minister; Major General Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of Army Political Affairs; Major General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, state security minister; Brigadier General 'Abdolhaq Ulumi, responsible for the Department of Defense and Justice of the PDPA Central Committee; and Nematollah, head of the central zone.

Comrade Najibullah made some points about the active role of our heroic Armed Forces in safeguarding the outcome of the April Revolution and said:

[Begin Najibullah recording in Dari] Dear comrades. Some time ago the freedom-loving people of our revolutionary homeland celebrated the 8th anniversary of the victory of the glorious April Revolution. In the years since the victory of the revolution, the people of Afghanistan have achieved many successes in various spheres of economic, social, political, and cultural life. In our country more than 95 large and small economic establishments have been completed. The salary of workers and employees has been increased by 33 percent and 313,000 landless peasants and small landholders have received land through the state. More than 1,300 agricultural cooperatives and about 140 consumer cooperatives have been created in the country. In the years 1363 and 1364 [1363 began 21 March 84] the national income has

increased by 14.3 percent. The DRA has constantly paid attention to the construction of houses, nurseries, hospitals, polyclinics, and schools. During the last 5 years, the number of hospital beds has increased by 84 percent and doctors by 45 percent. More than one million people have become literate and the circulation of newspapers and journals has increased by 2.8 times.

Our country's political system has been consolidated. The social [words indistinct] of the revolution is developing. The number of party members has reached 155,000 as compared with 18,000 at the begining of the April Revolution. In the ranks of the National Fatherland Front, more than 700,000 people have been mobilized and the patriotic youth members of the DYOA are actively fighting in the armed struggle against the counterrevolutionaries. Afghan women are more actively participating in all spheres of our society and at present more than 40,000 Afghan women and girls are organized in the DWOA.

The elections for the local organs of state power and administration started in the summer of 1364 [1364 began 21 March 85] and among the people's representatives for the local organs, 57 percent are non-party members. All these are manifestations of the fact that the authority and prestige of revolutionary power in the DRA increases day by day and that the social foundation of the revolutionary state is strengthening daily.

The DRA Loya Jirga and the High Jirga for Tribes and Nationalities, on the whole, constitute the outcome of the revolution in our dear country. They have confirmed the state's foreign and internal policy. (?Despite) the success achieved, the process of building a new society in our dear country has been difficult. First of all, the problems and difficulties have been created by the undeclared war of imperialism and reaction. The DRA Armed Forces are playing an important role in defending the glorious April Revolution. The Armed Forces, together with all of Afghanistan's working people, are competently defending the outcome of the revolution.

The important and responsible task of struggle against counterrevolutionaries is entrusted to the DRA air force and air defense forces, both today and in the future. The air force and air defense forces have the task of safeguarding the country's airspace and of delivering practical and useful help to the ground forces so they can carry out successful combat operations to crush rebel bands and counterrevolutionaries. In the future, the air force should give more aid to the DRA Armed Forces, state bodies, and establishments in transporting goods and state commodities, as well as more passengers.

The PDPA Central Committee is well aware that our air force has shown heroism and (?feats) in their struggle against counterrevolutionaries. [applause] In the battlefield, most of the pilots and flight personnel have displayed heroism, self-sacrifice, and bravery. The technical, engineering, communication, and logistic personnel are carrying out indefatigable work in order to provide for air missions, as well as the lasting fulfillment of battle and air combat requirements. The party and state have paid and will pay constant attention to the Armed Forces, and from them to the air force and the air defense forces. The PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Revolutionary Council have approved several resolutions to financially and morally commend the Armed Forces personnel displaying competence and bravery in carrying out their combat tasks. The party and state will also strive in the future to improve the life of Army personnel from the aspect of their living conditions. It is certain that significant attention will be paid to air force personnel and especially to flight personnel.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Revolutionary Council are fully confident that the personnel of the air force and air defense forces will competently fulfill their tasks and responsibilities with honor and honesty in the defense of the outcome of the revolution. Thank you. [applause][end recording]

Comrade Najibullah observed a minute of silence to show respect for those officers and soldiers of the air force and the air defense forces who have lost their lives in defending the human objectives of the glorious April Revolution and prayed for their souls to be happy.

On behalf of the personnel of Bagram air garrison, a commander, during a short speech, expressed his support for and affirmation for the resolutions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and assured Comrade Najibullah that he will exert all his efforts and energy to defend the April Revolution and its outcome and will not spare any self-sacrifice in this regard. At the end of his speech, he presented a memorial gift from the personnel of Bagram air garrison to Comrade Najibullah who accepted it with thanks.

Council of Ministers Approves USSR Cooperation Accord

LD180617 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 17, BAKHTAR — In the light of the agreements reached between Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of Politburo of the CC of the PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA and the Soviet side in Moscow, last April, the document on common measures for the implementation of the items of Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement concluded between the two countries on August 27, 1985 were approved by the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

In line with this document the work relating to geology and exploration of the gas deposits in northern Afghanistan during 1986-1990 in the existing and new mines will be further intensified. Exploration of the new gas mines, expansion of the gas industry, laying of gas pipelines, extension of electric power lines, construction of electric pylons, power stations roads and other auxiliary projects are envisaged under the program. Training of technical cadres for the projects, construction of residential areas, service and cultural centers for the use of workers and specialists will also be undertaken in Mazar-e Sharif and Sheberghan cities.

The implementation of this program will play an important role in the consolidation of the national economy and the raising of the living standard of the people. The agreement is a guarantor of ever expanding friendly cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Further Reportage on Recent Parliamentary Elections

New Elections Demanded

BK171419 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 17 (AFP) — The chief of the Moslem fundamentalist Jami'at-e Islami Party Saturday rejected the results of recent parliamentary polls and demanded fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government. Moulana Abbas Ali Khan, acting chief of the Jami'at, told a rally staged in front of the Baitul Mukkarram Mosque here: "The way the polls were conducted was not free and fair. We reject the polls and demand fresh election but not under the present military regime."

The Jami'at — a right-wing party which contested the May 7 polls despite earlier plans to boycott the election — has won 10 of the 168 seats so far declared in unofficial counts. "All others who have won the polls have committed robbery of votes using muscle tactics and intimidation. The parliament cannot thus be a fair representation of the public opinion," Moulana Abbas said. However, the opposition leader failed to specify whether his party would in fact sit in parliament or boycott it.

The Jami'at had organised the rally to protest alleged widespread election fraud in the May 7 polls. Several hundred supporters turned out in spite of heavy rain to attend the rally.

5 Killed in New Voting

BK190445 Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 19 (AFP) — Violence during fresh voting in two constituencies in Bangladesh's parliamentary election Sunday left at least five dead, officials and party sources said Monday. Fresh polling was held in several areas Sunday after voting in those centres was suspended due to violence during the May 7 parliamentary election. More than 30 people died and more than 300 were wounded, according to unofficial estimates. Officials said three people were killed at Mathbaria in southern Pirojpur District Sunday, about 200 kilometers (130 miles) from here.

The daily *SANGBAD* reported from the area that the three were killed when police fired to control mobs of supporters of two rival independent candidates. The mobs had attacked each other as well as local administration offices and police.

Awami League sources here said two people died and more than 20 were wounded in police firing when trouble erupted during polling at Ramu in Cox's Bazar District, 350 kilometers (160 miles) southeast of here.

A newspaper said the two died in clashes between supporters of the pro-government Jatiya Party and the opposition Awami League.

An official in the district administration in Pirojpur told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Monday that the district administrator and police chief had visited Mathbaria Sunday and had talks with local leaders, and additional police were sent to the area. He said the area was still tense Monday.

Election Results Detailed

BK190759 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] The Election Commission today announced unofficial result of one more constituency. This is Comilla-1 where Mohammad Mubarak Ali, advocate of Jatiya Party, became winner with 46,876 votes after repolling in 4 centers of the constituency held yesterday. His nearest rival, Amjad Hassan, independent, got 46,851 votes.

This brings the total number of constituencies to 287, of which unofficial results have been announced.

The latest party position is Jatiya Party 149; Awami League 73; Jami'at-e Islami 10; CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] 5; NAP [National Awami Party]-United 5; Muslim League 4; BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awamil League] 3; JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal]-Siraj 3; Workers Party 3; NAP-Muzaffar 2; JSD-Rob 2; independents 28.

Soviet Envoy Reports on Situation at Chernobyl

BK151600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] The Soviet Union today apprised India of its steps taken to deal with the recent accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The Soviet ambassador in New Delhi, Mr V.N. Rykov, met the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr N.P. Jain, and assured him that the most difficult problems arising out of the accident have already been effectively tackled. The Soviet Government, he said, is monitoring the situation constantly and making earnest efforts to eliminate any harmful effects of the accident. Mr Rykov also drew Mr Jain's attention to the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev's television address last night in which he reaffirmed his readiness to meet President Reagan without any delay in any European capital or in Hiroshima, which was devastated by the first ever nuclear attack.

Commission Not To Release Gandhi Assassination Report

BK161622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The government today submitted in the Delhi High Court that in the interest of security of state and also in public interest, it will not be expedient to lay before parliament the report of the Thakkar Commission [appointed to investigate Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination].

In its reply to the show-cause notice issued to the government by division bench of the High Court, the standing counsel, Mr R.K. Anand, said it is not obligatory for the center to place the commission's report before parliament in view of the ordinance promulgated by the president. The show-cause notice was given following a petition moved by the defense counsel in the Indira Gandhi murder case. The writ petition is to come up for arguments in the High Court on Monday.

Prime Minister Returns From 4-Nation African Visit

BK190548 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, returned to New Delhi a short while ago at the end of his 4-nation African tour of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Tanzania. He was received at the airport by his cabinet colleagues and others.

Speaking to newsmen, the prime minister said that his visit to four African states has been very successful. Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that it will help strengthen India's solidarity with the Frontline African States. He said his visit will give an added thrust to the anti-apartheid movement in the African Continent.

Speaking about Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said that of late it appears from reports that the Sri Lankan Government is moving toward a military solution of the ethnic problem. He said that India still believes that a political solution is the only solution to the issue. He said India will continue its efforts toward this end.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that he has discussed with the African leaders apartheid, South Africa, South-South cooperation, and the Commonwealth. He also said the situation in those countries also came up for discussion.

At Dar es Salaam, addressing a press conference, the prime minister said that India wants to expand political and economic cooperation with the Frontline African States to frustrate Pretoria's attempts at destablizing the region. Mr Rajiv Gandhi ruled out the possibility of any military aid to these countries. He said that his visit was to express solidarity with these countries in their struggle against apartheid. The prime minister said the situation in South Africa has reached an explosive stage and if not handled properly it will lead to tremendous bloodshed. He announced that India will press for fresh line of action at the forthcoming Commonwealth summit in London to deal with the problem.

Mr Gandhi told newsmen that India and Tanzania have reached a broad agreement on bringing about an agricultural revolution in Tanzania. A delegation will visit India soon in this connection, he said. The prime ministers earlier, addressing the Indian community there, asked them to involve themselves in the process of development of Tanzania. During the day, he met the former president of Tanzania, Mr Julius Nyerere, and had lunch with him. Other Tanzanian ministers also called on Mr Gandhi and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. The Tanzanian president, Mr 'Ali Hasan Mwinyi, drove with Mr Gandhi to the airport to give him an affectionate send-off.

Further Details

BK190854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 May 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Sri Lanka Government appears to be moving toward a military solution to the ethnic problem. Speaking to newsmen soon after his arrival at New Delhi airport from Dar es Salaam this morning, he said even at this stage steps could be taken toward a political solution to the ethnic conflict. Sri Lanka's thinking on the problem seems to be changing as it had diluted the proposals discussed in Colombo between the Indian delegation and the Sri Lankan leaders recently. Mr Gandhi said the proposals submitted to the Indian team by the Sri Lanka Government are being considered and will be put before Tamils. Pointing out that the proposals submitted by the Indian team were good, the prime minister hoped that Colombo would seriously ponder over the matter and strive to find a political solution to its ethnic problem.

The prime minister said his talks with the African leaders would help strengthen and bolster the efforts of Frontline States in bringing down the system of apartheid in South Africa, Mr Gandhi said that none of the leaders of the Frontline States has asked for arms and if they ask for it we will see at that time what to do. But India's policy is not to be a supplier of arms and we have no intention of changing the policy.

Mr Gandhi said the eminent people's group set up at the Nassau Commonwealth summit has achieved some success in their

efforts to meet the jailed African leader, Mr Nelson Mandela. They are holding talks with the Pretoria regime. The key issue is to do away with apartheid. The prime minister said that there is much scope to improve trade and bilateral relations between India and the Frontline States. There will be exchange of visits by experts from both sides to identify areas of cooperation and discuss details of assistance that India could offer.

When a reporter drew the prime minister's attention to Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq's charge that India is helping the Pakistan People's Party leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, Mr Gandhi said India is neither helping anybody nor is there any need for it.

About the initiative taken by the 5-continent 6-nation group on nuclear disarmament, Mr Gandhi said there has been a good response from the Soviet Union. We welcome the Soviet Union's extension of unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. The prime minister said that the 6-nation group has not received any response from other nuclear states in this regard. He hoped that they would respond similarly by the time the signatories of the 6-nation initiative on peace and disarmament meet in Mexico on 6 August.

Further Reportage on Unrest Incidents in Punjab

3 Killed, 1 Injured

BK170306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] In Punjab three persons were killed and one injured in separate incidents of violence in Gurdaspur and Ferozepore Districts last night [16 May]. Two persons were killed and one injured when two groups of suspected terrorists opened fire in Wadala-Bangra near Kalanaur in Gurdaspur District. Meanwhile, police claimed to have arrested seven wanted terrorists after an encounter near Amritsar.

Sikh Priests Hold Barnala Guilty

BK170851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, today appeared before the five Sikh head priests in Amritsar. According to UNITED NEWS of INDIA one of the priests said that they had held Mr Barnala guilty of having hurt Sikh religious sentiments by ordering the police to enter the Golden Temple complex last month. But Mr Barnala later told newsmen that he has been exonerated by the high priests.

The chief minister, who flew to Amritsar from Chandigarh this morning, said that last month's police entry into the temple complex to flush out extremists and antisocial elements had created some misconception. But, he added, he had cleared these up with the high priests at the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion]. However, the head priest of the Golden Temple, Mr Sahib Singh, said while performing the ardas [prayers] at the conclusion of a special meeting that Mr Barnala had been held guilty and would be exonerated only after he underwent religious punishment awarded to him.

Barnala To Undergo Atonement

BK171259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] On a directive by the five Sikh head priests the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, today appeared before them at Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] in Amritsar. In a written statement later, the head priests said that Mr Barnala had given an explanation for the police action in the Golden temple complex last month.

Mr Barnala stated in his explanation that the police action was taken in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Sarbat Khalsa [highest Sikh congregation] at Anandpur Saheb. But the head priests felt that the police action had caused pain and sorrow and some unpleasant incidents had taken place. The head priests, therefore, asked Mr Barnala to undergo atonement. According to PTI, Mr Barnala agreed to perform seva — service — at Anandpur Saheb daily for 1 week.

While Mr Barnala was appearing before the head priests, a group of people held a noisy demonstration and raised slogans. Police registered a case of sedition against them.

Mr Barnala told newsmen later that he was not declared guilty of religious misconduct by the head priests. He clarified that he had appeared at the Akal Takht as an ordinary Sikh and not as chief minister.

Meeting of Bangladesh, Tripura Officials Begins

BK171421 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] A flag meeting between the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] Border Security Force of Tripura and his Bangladesh counterpart — the sector commander of Chittagong Hill Tracts — began at Sabroom in South Tripura this morning. Quoting BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangsatha] sources our Agartala correspondent reports that the meeting is discussing the modalities of the return of tribal refugees to Bangladesh.

Reportage on Downing of Afghan Plane Near Parachinar

Protest Lodged on Violations

BK181544 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul administration over the four Afghan aircraft's violation of Pakistan's airspace near Parachinar yesterday. One of these Afghan aircraft was shot down while another was hit. The wreckage of the downed Afghan plane came down nearly 15 km from the Afghan border inside Pakistani territory. The Kabul administration's Armed Forces also fired their artillery last Wednesday [14 May]. The Afghan artillery shells landed on Kotri and Teri Mangal and on the Frontier Corps posts near Parachinar. As a result of this shelling, 20 Afghan refugees were wounded.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and was asked to convey to his superiors that all responsibility for the serious consequences of such unprovoked activities will lie with the Kabul administration if such activities are not stopped.

Air Force Commander Gives Details

BK190432 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 May 86

[Text The two Afghan planes fired on by Pakistani Air Force F-16's on Saturday [17 May] morning for violating Pakistani airspace are presumed to be of SU-22 type. One of these planes was downed. A group of journalists, including foreign correspondents, saw the wreckage of the plane during their visit to Parachinar, where the incident took place.

Giving details of this operation to journalists, the Pakistani Air Force deputy chief, air chief operations, and air officer commanding — northern air command — said four Afghan planes violated Pakistani airspace and entered Pakistani territory. Two planes, presumably of SU-22 type, were confronted by two Pakistani F-16's. Two missiles were fired at a plane, one (?moving away) and the other hitting the intruder. Later, artillery [as heard] rounds were fired on the second Afghan plane. Although this plane succeed in escaping, it was seen emitting smoke.

Wreckage of the damaged plane comprises mostly the pieces of its tail end, fragments of flight control surfaces, and other such pieces. It is stated that the downed Afghan plane was shot down in Pakistani territory from a height of 18,000 feet. The Pakistani F-16's were on patrol at the time because of the various airspace violations from Afghanistan.

In reply to a question on the other Afghan plane, he said it may not have escaped as it would be difficult for it to maintain control after being hit. This plane would have crashed in the long mountain range. He said the Afghan planes intruded 20 miles into Pakistani territory and they were intercepted within 4 or 5 minutes of their intrusion. He said the bombs the Afghan planes dropped before they were engaged by the F-16's were of the 500-pound type.

Indirect Talks in Geneva Extended; Progress Noted

BK161549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan, now being held in Geneva, has been extended into a 3d week. This was stated by the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, at a Geneva news conference which was called on the conclusion of the 2d week of the current round of talks on the future of Afghanistan.

Cordovez said Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the Kabul administration's foreign minister, Shah Mohammad Dost, have decided that the current round of talks should be continued into next week also. According to the previous program, the current talks were to end today. The main question regarding the time frame for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan will be discussed next week.

Cordovez announced that the two sides have reached an understanding on two major issues which had created considerable difficulties in the past. He said: I can now say that this new understanding has generated bright prospects for the progress of the UN-sponsored talks. Cordovez said the atmosphere of the talks so far has been favorable.

Both sides are extremely serious regarding the solution of the problem which reflects their desire for the settlement of the issue. He said the progress made at the talks thus far can be termed as real and technical progress.

Cordovez said the main question of a time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet forces will be discussed during next week's talks, although this question has dominated discussions during the past weeks because it is related to the issues of noninterference, voluntary return of refugees, and the principles of international guarantees.

Delhi: 4 Dead in Karachi Ethnic Clashes

BK160303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] In Pakistan, at least four persons were shot dead and six others wounded in ethnic clashes in Karachi yesterday. The authorities said that fighting erupted in the Orangi slum area of the city when members of the Pathan and the Bihari ethnic groups began shooting at each other and setting fire to buildings.

Delhi: National Assembly Speaker Removed

BK180345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] In Pakistan, the ruling Muslim League parliamentary party has decided to remove the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Syed Fakhr Imam.

A spokesman of the party said the speaker consistently behaved in a partisan manner detrimental to the working of the National Assembly.

President To Convene National Assembly 26 May
BK181551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] The president has summoned the National Assembly session on the 26th of this month at the State Bank Building in Islamabad at 1000.

Delegation Leaves for PRC Visit 18 May
BK180645 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] A 5-member Pakistani delegation led by the minister of state for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Nawaz Khan Marwat, left Islamabad this morning for Beijing to take part in celebrations beginning Wednesday to mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, the delegation head said they are taking with them the Pakistani people's good wishes for the people of China.

He also noted China's assistance to Pakistan, especially in the field of science and technology. The opening of the Khunjerab Pass to traffic and the construction of the Karakoram highway have further strengthened the friendly relations between the two countries.

The Pakistani delegation's visit will further promote the friendly and special relationship between China and Pakistan, he observed.

A similar Chinese good-will delegation led by member of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and vice chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Fu Hao, arrives in Pakistan tomorrow.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent says the two countries have made elaborate arrangements to celebrate the occasion, which shows the exemplary relationship existing between China and Pakistan.

Afghan Mujahidin Down 3 Aircraft in Paktia Province
BK170326 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] According to a report, the mujahidin in Afghanistan shot down three aircraft in the (Zawiya) region of Paktia Province. Clashes also occurred between the mujahidin and occupying Soviet forces who were trying to contain the situation in Qandahar.

The Soviet Forces, during the clashes, damaged the famous mosque in Qandahar where the holy prophet's clothes and other rare artifiacts are preserved. The mosque building was severely damaged, but the articles belonging to the holy prophet remained intact [words indistinct]. The mujahidin killed (?16) Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroyed tanks and armored vehicles.

Mujahidin Down Soviet Plane in Takhar Province
BK171522 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] According to reports Afghan mujahidin recently shot down a Soviet plane in fierce fighting with Soviet-Karmal troops in Takhar Province. The mujahidin also damaged many other Soviet fighter planes. According to the reports, during this operation the mujahidin killed many officials of the Soviet-supported Kabul regime.

Mujahidin Kill 33 Party Members in Farah Province
BK190626 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin exterminated 33 members of the ruling party in Farah Province recently. These members of the ruling party had gone to the Khash Rud area of the province to instigate the people against mujahidin. Another report says mujahidin attacked the (Sarghar) military camp in Zabul Province at the beginning of this month killing 15 soldier of the Soviet-Kabul forces and damaging several tanks and armored cars.

SRI LANKA

Jaywardene Claims Tamil Nadu Supporting Tamils

BK181117 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] President Jayewardene has deplored the fact that the people in the north are unable to enjoy democratic freedom due to rampant terrorist activities. Speaking at a religious ceremony at the (Relevata Shrisudarama Vilarya) yesterday, the president stressed that terrorism has to be wiped out totally if the people in the north are to regain their lost freedom. He went on to explain that terrorism has not only disrupted normal life in the country, but also led to mass killings among the terrorist groups themselves. While observing that terrorism is not confined to Sri Lanka, the president welcomed international efforts to curb this menace.

The president accused the Tamil Nadu government of giving sanctuary to Tamil terrorists and providing with material support in addition to official recognition. He warned that the long-term effects of such action would be felt with the spread of terrorism across India. While pledging to hold general elections according to schedule, Mr Jayewardene pointed out that it was the duty of all sections of the community to assist the government in its attempt to wipe out terrorism.

High Commissioner States Tamils Must Negotiate

NC181952 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 18 May 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, May 18 (AFP) — Sri Lanka told India Sunday that it will offer no more clarifications on its latest proposals to end the ethnic strife in the island nation until Tamil militants came to the negotiation table, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

he Sri Lankan view was conveyed by High Commissioner Bernard Tilakaratna to federal minister for personnel, P. Chidambaram, in a meeting here. Mr Tilakaratna called on Mr Chidambaram, who led an Indian delegation to Colombo two weeks ago, to discuss the ethnic problem, PTI said.

PTI said Mr Tilakaratna expressed the hope that the militants would respond positively to the government's stand, which follows a statement last week by the Indian foreign minister, P. Shiv Shankar, expressing disappointment over the Sri Lankan response to Indian queries on its proposals. Mr Tilakaratna told Mr Chidambaram that unless Tamil militants came forward to discuss the latest proposals, there would be no point in providing clarifications. Tamil groups on the other hand charge the government with willing innocent Tamils and say they will not discuss government proposals until this is stopped.

'Liberation Tigers' Leave Tamil Front

NC171919 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] New Delhi, May 17 (AFP) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has decided to opt out of a Sri Lankan Tamil militants front temporarily, a spokesman for the LTTE said Saturday. "We are out of the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) for the time being. But we have not taken any decision to pull out altogether" the PRESS TRUST of INDIA quoted LTTE spokesman A.S. Balasingham as saying in the southern city of Madras. LTTE, one of four groups comprising the ENLF, has recently been involved in bloody clashes with another constituent — the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO). The other members of the ENLF are the Eelam People's Revolutionary Front (EPRF) and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (ERO) and leaders of all four groups have sought refuge in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

LTTE, which like other Tamil militant organisations, is fighting for greater political autonomy in Sinhala-dominated Sri Lanka, alleges that TELO members indulge in hooliganism.

Early this month, guerrillas belonging to the two groups fought a gunbattle in Sri Lanka and a TELO leader, Sri Sabaratnam, was killed in it.

PTI quoted Mr Balasingham as saying LTTE had "serious differences" with TELO. "We have officially not walked out of the ENLF but its meeting have become an exercise in futility with some of the leaders taking no action against their men who indulge in crimes against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka," Mr Balasingham said.

LTTE says guerrillas belonging to the TELO extort money from Tamil plantation workers settled in Northern Sri Lanka, a charge vehemently denied by TELO.

Minister Stresses Conciliation in Ethnic Problem

BK171123 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that it is futile at this stage to trace the origins of the (?northern) terrorist movement, nor is it relevant to find out the persons responsible for this physical outburst. He emphasized that the prime need of the day is to close ranks and face this threat with confidence and determination.

Addressing a religious function at (Rakwan) yesterday, the minister reiterated that the only solution to this problem is the political settlement. He went on to explain that continued close contacts with the Indian Government together with the strengthening of the Armed Forces would pave the way to a political settlement.

The minister told the gathering that approximately 70,000 young men and women are assisting the separatist terrorist movement in numerous ways. In this context, he observed that the Buddhist public does not advocate the total destruction or elimination of this youth force. It is necessary and most vital that the misdirected youths be brought back to their senses and rehabilitated in society.

Mr Athulathmudali further said that the situation in the Eastern Province has improved considerably.

Majlis Speaker on Guards Corps-Navy Cooperation

LD182300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] According to an IRNA report, during a meeting with a group of Navy cadres of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, stressing the importance and necessity of the creation of that force, said: We have great expectations for this new force.

Referring to the sensitive and vital role of the sea for the Islamic Republic of Iran, he stated: The presence of the superpowers in the Indian Ocean — which they would not let go easily — and the sensitivity of the Persian Gulf region, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, the coasts of Baluchestan va Sistan and Hormozgan are matters that we cannot overlook. He added: In the north, the Caspian Sea is a very vital area for us, which requires our serious presence.

Referring to the powerful presence of the Iranian Navy in the Persian gulf and the Gulf of Oman and its role in maintaining security in the Persian Gulf, he said: Despite what our enemies suggest, the Iranian Navy is glad for the presence of the Guards Corps Navy alongside it, to fill our vacuum at sea. [as heard] As the Ground Forces are encouraged by the presence of the Corps alongside it, due to the vastness of the sea, this means a great deal more to the Navy. No doubt with your greater presence at sea, they [the Navy] would feel more encouraged.

Praising the Iranian Navy for its efforts in safeguarding Iran's coasts and maintaining security in the Persian Gulf, he stated: We have safeguarded our coasts in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman using the Navy. We hope that with the expansion of your activities, this presence will increase. As you showed during the "Val-Fajr-8" operation, you can cooperate well with each other. He added: The important point to be noted is that the southern sea [Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman] is where there is always the possibility of great danger. With initiative and accurate planning you can resort to actions in proportion to our strength and facilities in the face of the vast naval strength of powerful countries. He said: I am told that the Guards Corps Navy has taken measures enabling its role in guarding the sea to be as effective as a warship. [as heard]

Referring to our economic need of the sea, he stressed: With your long-standing and valuable experience of the Navy and its use of the presence of popular forces at sea, a considerable force will definitely be created in the world, the likes of which cannot be seen anywhere else. He added: If you create this desired force with the cooperation of the Armed Forces, no fleet carrying marines could compete with you, as they cannot on land. Our neighbors in the southern Persian Gulf should feel reassured by your presence.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement Supporting Syria

LD171727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] In the wake of military provocations by the Zionist regime against the fraternal country of Syria the following statement was issued this evening by our country's foreign ministry: In His exalted name. America and the usurping Jerusalem regime have been recently engaged in preparing the ground to launch a military attack against the fraternal and Muslim country of Syria. While raising the issue of terrorism and how to confronting it, they have been embarking on propaganda attack against Syria trying to justify their aggressive acts against revolutionary and progressive countries of the region.

While condemning such political and hostile propaganda, which stem from the aggressive U.S. nature as well as the ominous aggressive intentions of Israel, and while declaring its absolute support for Syria and standing side by side with our Syrian brethren against U.S. and the Jerusalem-occupying regime's plots, the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry points regrettably to the failure to demonstrate any appropriate reaction on the part of Arab and Islamic countries in condemning the recent U.S. military aggression against the Muslim country of Libya which only encourages the United States to resort to further aggression against other countries. However, the United States and the Jerusalem-occupying regime must bear in mind that Islamic and Arab nations, as in the past, will not submit to terrorist extortions by the U.S. Government; that, wherever necessary, they will respond appropriately to the insane measures taken by these enemies of Islam. Should any military aggression be undertaken, these nations will defeat them, as they did in the case of Lebanon.

Spokesman Denies Shelling of Iraqi City

LD170539 Tehran IRNA in English 0532 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — The spokesman for the War Information Headquarters here Saturday categorically denied the Iraqi claim alleging Iran of having bombed Khanaqin, Diyala Province, Friday. He told IRNA that the Iraqi regime was resorting to such fabrications to justify its crimes. "The Islamic combatants of Iran have not attacked Iraqi cities and if they have to do so, it will be announced beforehand," he told IRNA.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,472

LD161747 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit a concentration center of Iraqi helicopters in an area 10 miles west of Rawanduz at coordinated 36.39 degrees north and 44.32 degrees east at 06:15 hours local time (02:45 GMT) Friday, according to a military communique. It added that the Iranian fighter-bombers all returned to their bases safely after inflicting heavy damages and causalties on the Iraqi forces.

Communique Number 2472 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants demolished some 15 Iraqi bunkers, observation posts, vehicles as well as a number of mortar launchers in western fronts setting ablaze a munitions depot and killing or wounding an undetermined number of enemy forces. The communique said that a moving vehicle column of the enemy comprising 50 vehicles was observed in Mandali operational region where it was

subjected to the fire of the Muslim forces of Iran and sustained considerable damages and casualties.

In Sumar operational region, the Iranian Muslim combatants forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee as it was trying to penetrate their positions, according to the Joint Staff. The communique furthermore said that exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts, being somewhat more intense in Pich-e Angizah operational region, during which the fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants prevented enemy engineering efforts. The Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded a great number of Iraqi troops in the said region while destroying their bunkers, it added.

In Faqqeh operational region, the Muslim fighters of Iran pounded 40 to 50 advancing Iraqi tanks demolishing some of them along with their crew and forcing others to flee, according to the communique. Iran's anti-aircraft fire doened an Iraqi copter in Nahr-Anbar operational region, the communique said. The Joint Staff said that Iran's genedarmerie forces prevented the enemy movements in Dehloran and Abadan operational regions disrupting their engineering efforts. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was shelled by Iraqi artillery fire Thursday, the communique concluded.

11 Iraqi Helicopters Downed

GF161813 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Dear viewers, according to a report just handed to us from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters, fierce anti-aircraft fire by the Islamic troops in height No 2,519 in the Haj 'Umran area, brought down nine more helicopters of the Zionist Ba'thist enemy. This means that a total of 11 helicopters of the Iraqi Armed Forces have been shot down during today's fighting. This brings the total of downed helicopters over the past few days in the Hajj Umran operational area to 22. According to this report, a number of people in the helicopters were captured by the Islamic forces after their craft were downed.

Haj 'Umran Casualties 3,500

LD161958 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ, May 16, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers Thursday night in Hajj 'umran region bringing the number of enemy casualties to 3,500 during the past three days of clashes, according to Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, Friday. Iranian Muslim combatants shot down two more Iraqi helicopters during Thursday night operations bringing the number of downed copters of the enemy to 13.

Also captured was another group of Iraqi soldiers of whom 15 have been transferred behind the fronts. Iraqi commando battalion "Al-Ta'nim" was smashed and fatal blows were inflicted on infantry 98 and 431 of the enemy, while Iraqi equipment and communication gear were also destroyed during Thursday night's operations. Meanwhile, Iranian fighter bombers hit a concentration center of Iraqi helicopters in Rawanduz, Irbil Province in north Iraq. The planes all returned to their bases safely.

Iraqi Warplane Downed

LD171117 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., May 17 IRNA — An Iraqi Warplane was shot Down in Haj 'Umran Region, 100 Kms north east of Iraq's provincial capital city of Irbil Saturday. The Hamizeh Seyyed al-Shohada military operational headquarters has confirmed the report. During the past three days, 22 Iraqi helicopters, one airplane, and tens of tanks and personnel carriers were demolished and thousands of enemy troops were killed in a futile Iraqi attack in Haj 'Umran and its heights.

More Iraqi Aircraft Downed

LD181652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] According to reports from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday and today the combatants of Islam shot down six more helicopters of the aggressor enemy in the Haj 'Umran sector, bringing the number of enemy helicopters shot down during the past few days' clashes in the Haj 'Umran sector to 28. Also, yesterday and today three more invading enemy aircraft were shot down by the defensive fire of the forces of Islam in the Haj 'Umran sector. Iranian Air Force pilots, with a number of fighter-bombers, bombed enemy concentration points in northeastern Rawanduz in Iraq -- coordinates 36 degrees 37 minutes north and 44 degrees 49 minutes east at 1413 hours today. They all returned safely to their bases after inflicting heavy losses and casualties.

100 Iraqis Killed in Panjwin Region

LD170934 Teran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA -- Iran's Islamic combatants killed 100 Iraqi troops and wounded a large number of others during a patrol-combat operation in Panjwin region southeast of Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah on Thursday. During the operation carried out in five axes in the said region some enemy positions and equipment were also demolished.

Communique No 2,474

LD181706 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — A military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic here Sunday said one of a number of intruding Iraqi planes had been shot down by Iran's surface-to-air fire near 'Qotur' railway bridge in West Azarbaijan Province at 05:30 hours GMT Sunday.

The Joint Staff communique number 2474 said that Iranian naval units intercepted and inspected two cargo ships sailing

under foreign flags near the Hormuz Strait Saturday, but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related materials for the Iraqi regime.

In the western fronts, the communique said, exchange of artillery fire continued somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Mehran as a result of which many Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven bunkers and observation posts of theirs destroyers. According to the communique many Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers demolished during artillery duels with Muslim forces of Iran in the northwestern fronts Saturday. Iran's gendarmerie combatants opened fire on Iraqi positions across Abadan and Khorramshahr killing or wounding a number of the Iraqi soldiers and preventing their engineering operations Saturday and Sunday.

Iraqi Forces Pushed Back in Mehran

LD181738 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 18 May 86

["Iraqi Aggressors Losing in Mehran" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Prov., May 18, IRNA — Muslim combatants of the Islamic Republic have not only halted Iraqi forces in Mehran but pushed them back several kilometers, said military sources here Sunday. During the operation Iraqi forces suffered considerable casualties and several of their tanks and military vehicles were destroyed, the sources said. Continuous and heavy fighting between the two sides is reported to be going on in the region.

Iraqi Counterattack Smashed

LD171645 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Prov., May 17, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi counter-attack between Mehran and Changuleh early Saturday, killing or wounding about 300 Iraqi soldiers. At least 35 Iraqi tanks and vehicles were destroyed during the counter-assault.

Mehran, Bakhtaran, Ilam Clashes

LD171717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Reports from the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate that one of the aggressive Iraqi aircraft was hit by the fire of the anti-aircraft defense unit of the forces of Islam and was downed. In the course of their reconnaissance missions, Islamic Republic of Iran's vessels identified three foreign merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Since there was nothing suspicious to indicate that these ships were carrying goods destined for Iraq, they were allowed to proceed.

This report says that on the northwestern fronts, the combatants of Islam set fire to parts of defensive positions, fortifications, and one ammunition depot and destroyed six tanks, a number of supply trucks and two heavy engineering vehicles belonging to the Iraqi forces. Some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

During the exchanges of fire on Bakhtaran and Ilam fronts, the heavy artillery fire of the combatants of Islam destroyed several infantry, tank, and artillery positions, six heavy and light engineering and supply vehicles were set on fire and destroyed. In Sumar, Kani-Sheykh, and Soleyman Koshteh operational areas, movements and activities of a number of enemy patrol groups came under timely fire by combatants of Islam and enemy patrols, having suffered some casualties, fled the area.

Since 0300 hours this morning, a series of close combat and offensive operations began between our forces and the aggressive Ba'thist Iraqi forces in the general Mehran area. The battle is still going on.

In the Nahr-Anbar area of the southern fronts, continuous fire of the combatants of Islam on the infantry and engineering units of the Ba'thist enemy which were in the process of completing or repairing their defensive positions, at least 35 of them were either killed or wounded and their operations were halted. Also, in the same area, one of the Iraqi units came under heavy artillery fire by our forces and as a result, five of their tanks were either destroyed or put out of action. Yesterday, the city of Abadan was hit by enemy long-range artillery fire and 25 houses and shops sustained some damage.

'Heavy Battle' in Mehran

LD181218 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Muslim combatants have pushed back Iraqi troops five kms in the Mehran region, western Iran, and heavy battle is continuing in the area, the spokesman for the War Information headquarters said here Sunday. The "Ba'th enemy once again proved its aggressive nature when it attacked our soil Saturday and advanced along the road to Mehran" some 75 kms southwest of Ilam in Western Iran, he said. "Battle is continuing in the area and with no doubt the Muslim combatants who have beaten back the enemy throughout the war, will teach them another lesson" there, he said.

Mehran region, on the Iran-Iraq border, and between several mountain ranges has been captured twice by the Ba'th Army during the five-year-old war, he said. Iraqi troops had positions on heights adjacent to the Mehran region and could shell roads in the area, he said.

Iraqi advance in the area, made through a huge mobilization of forces is more a propaganda effort rather than a victory with military value, he said. Iraq has lost the Al-Faw Peninsula and is in desperate need to improve the morale of its forces and the military effort in Mehran can be only explained within this context, he added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iran repelled three Iraqi counterattacks in the Mehran area 18-19 May and recaptured three Iranian townships recently captured by Iraq, according to IRNA reports, which also claimed that the Iraqis have sustained 1,000 casualties and lost 55 tanks in fighting in the region. The agency claimed that the Iraqis have been "forced" to withdraw north of Mehran and that Iran has the "upper hand" in the region although "fierce" fighting is continuing. A communique cited by IRNA reported that Iranian planes bombed Iraqi positions in the area twice on 20 May, causing heavy personnel and material losses. For Iraq's part, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio asserted that Iraq "widened" the area under its control in that area and captured seven more heights and plateaus during which the Iranians incurred "massive" losses.

In the northern Haj 'Umran area, the Iraqi communique reported that "hundreds" of Iranians were killed in an unsuccessful Iranian counterattack and that an Iranian F-4 was downed inside Iran after it attempted to penetrate Iraqi airspace. On the other hand, a communique carried by Tehran radio reported a "relatively heavy clash" in that area resulting in more than 200 Iraqi casualties.

An official Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement carried by INA, rebutted Iranian allegations that the train bombed by Iraqi planes 14 May was carrying passengers, and insisted instead that it was transporting soldiers, ammunition, and weapons.

Israel

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's declared opposition to terrorism is "verbal progress" but the test of "genuine progress" is in deeds not words, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset in a speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio. If Syria continues to host terrorism, the world may resort to economic and diplomatic countermeasures, Peres asserted, adding that there will be "no need to resort to weapons" as Syria faces economic difficulties and is "vulnerable" to measures which the international community may take against it. Peres also welcomed Al-Asad's recent statements on the Israeli-Syrian military situation, asserting that the Syrian leader's approach is "better than words aimed at igniting flames in the region." If Syria wants a peaceful future, Israel is prepared to negotiate with it without preconditions, he affirmed. As for the Syrian deployment in Lebanon, Peres said Israel does not want to threaten Syria but it will not let Syria pose an "aggressive threat." Israel will not send its soldiers to play any role in Lebanon, but it will go to great lengths to ensure that Lebanon does not become a launching pad for missiles or for terrorists trying to infiltrate into Israel.

On the Palestinian problem, Peres reaffirmed Israel's readiness to negotiate with Jordan or with a mutually-acceptable Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, adding that Israel is prepared to have the negotiations open with an "international accompaniment" playing an encouraging but not intrusive role. Before such talks, Israel is prepared to propose, albeit not to impose, "self-administration of daily life" in the occupied territories, as well as measures to promote economic development and contacts between the inhabitants of the territories and Jordan.

The Israeli leader also stressed the "urgent" need to improve relations with Egypt and thereby broaden the "circle of peace." The two countries should adopt measures that promote "confidence" and enter into "direct and intensive talks" to solve pending problems.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio noted the resumption of the Tabah talks in Herzliyya, citing an Israeli spokesman's view that "real progress" was made at the first meeting 19 May. In another development, the radio reported that Syria will shortly receive SS-23 missiles from the Soviet Union. *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* cited reports that Syria will receive 500 SS-23's, adding that Israeli sources think the supply of modern missiles and aircraft to Syria could constitute a "serious threat" to Israel.

Lebanon

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that seven people were killed in renewed clashes between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen in Beirut.

Libya

Tripoli radio reported that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a "personal" message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, adding that Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud will head a "high-level" delegation to Moscow in a "few days."

Jordan

In a statement released in Beirut, the Jordanian Communist Party disclosed that several party leaders and dozens of its members were "detained" 17 May in a government attempt to end a "legitimate protest movement" in the city of Irbid, where Yarmuk University is located, following the recent "massacres" at the university, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

"Palestinian sources" cited by the radio alleged that the government deported Fatah officer Salah al-Ta'mari 15 May to an undisclosed destination.

Qatar-Bahrain

In a statement to SPA, Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir announced that the Qatari and Bahraini amirs have accepted the

principles proposed by Saudi Arabia for a plan to eliminate the causes behind the Fasht al-Dibal dispute.

Sudan

An official SPLA-SPLM spokesman denied recent government claims that its forces had recaptured Rumbek, and asserted that government troops there are besieged and confined to an area, according to the clandestine SPLA radio. The official further announced that SPLA forces downed a government helicopter 18 May as it was approaching the town carrying "vitally needed" supplies.

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Najibullah Addresses Border Guards Meeting
LD182136 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 May 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, at about 1500 today went to the education center of the DRA border forces and spoke with the soldiers, students, and officers. A BIA correspondent reports that the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee took part in a meeting of the soldiers, students, and officers of some units and companies of the DRA Army, which was held at the headquarters of the border forces education center.

At the beginning of the meeting, Colonel Hashmatollah [name indistinct], the commander of the border educational brigade, welcomed the participation of Comrade Najibullah in the gathering of the Army heroes. In the course of his statement, on behalf of the others, he congratulated Comrade Najibullah on his election to the position of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. He also expressed the brigade's militant solidarity and readiness with their beloved party, the PDPA, and the decisions of the 18th PDPA Plenum. He then stated the sacrifices and heroism of the border forces staff in shielding the country's borders and defending the revolution and people, as well as in protecting our revolutionary homeland, Afghanistan.

The BIA correspondent adds that afterward Comrade Najibullah said: Men, non-commissioned officers, and heroic officers of the DRA Army, greetings to you heroic comrades, greetings to you courageous sons of our fathers and forefathers, greetings to you the true sons of the Afghan homeland. The enemies shamelessly and brazenly embark on propaganda, unleash a hue and cry, and beat hollow drums by saying that in Afghanistan the revolution is not protected by the sons of Afghanistan. The DRA Army does not exist, they say. Who then, are these men of steel with hands of steel? They are not only Afghans; they are heroic and self-sacrificing Afghans like their fathers and forefathers who, with unshakeable will and determination, are always ready in the battlefield and are ready to defend their homeland, whose name is revolutionary Afghanistan.

During his statement, Comrade Najibullah said: Under the leadership of the PDPA, 8 years ago, the strong will of all the people, and of you officers and men, brought the glorious April Revolution to victory. The bases of an old and decadent monarchical feudalist plundering order crumbled in order to raise the level of the material and moral life of all the Afghan people and the tribes and nationalities to live side by side in an atmosphere of equality and fraternity. Comrade Najibullah added: We are determined to create such an Afghanistan. If this is the revolution's aim, then it is your duty to defend, safeguard, and protect this revolution. This duty is entrusted to you, the Afghan sons, the courageous troops of the country.

In another part of his statement, he said: The party and our social organizations, as well as the Armed Forces are ready for any kind of duty, day and night, to defend their revolution with their combat and political ranks. These forces are not alone; with them are the broad masses of the Afghan people including workers, peasants, artisans, intellectuals, petit bourgeoisie, farmers, national traders, and investors. Finally, the party is with the people; the armed forces are with the people, and the people support their armed forces and the party.

On the international level, the people of Afghanistan are also not alone. They have friends, international friends, headed by the Soviet Union. These friends have, in the course of 65 years stood by the people of Afghanistan under the most difficult conditions. Now, also, you witness that they take part in your struggles shoulder to shoulder. We are proud of such friends. You are the sons of your courageous and appreciative fathers who never forgot the favors of others. As the sons of our fathers, we too will not forget the chivalry of the great Soviet people. It will be transferred from generation to generation as the (?pages) of the history of Afghan-Soviet friendship consolidate, and remain forever.

You are witnesses to the fact that we will be victorious because we are not alone. With great faith and confidence, like the sons of your courageous fathers and forefathers who precisely recognized your enemies and friends, be ready for the crushing of the counterrevolution. You should fight to the death to protect your country's borders, which means the protection of the freedom, independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of your country. We totally believe that you courageous men, in protecting the name of the homeland, are ready for every kind of sacrifice, heroism, and courage. In particular, the staff of the border brigade, who will graduate after a few months here and be sent to border units to shield the country's borders, will be meeting the tribes who live along the border. They will meet those courageous tribes who, throughout history, have defended the country's borders with courage and sacrifice, and have defended the homeland and the revolution. When you join them a strong and invincible wall will be created which the enemy will never be able to penetrate. Such are our revolutionary, humanitarian, patriotic, faithful, and conscientious tasks.

PDRY's Al-Bayd Congratulates Najibullah on Election
LD180610 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 17, BAKHTAR — A congratulatory message from 'Ali Salim al-Bayd, general secretary of the Yemen Socialist Party (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen), addressed to Comrade Najibullah on the occasion of his election as general secretary of the PDPA CC, has been received here.

In the message, 'Ali Salim al-Bayd, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, has congratulated Comrade Najibullah and wished him success in the struggle for the implementation of the lofty objectives of the April Revolution of 1978.

The message pointed out that the Yemen Socialist Party has close fraternal relations with the PDPA based on the unity of goals and common principles. The message has once again assured the unshakable solidarity of the PDRY with the struggle of the DRA against the conspiracy of the imperialist and reactionary forces which has been waged for the destruction of the gains of April Revolution and prevention of the progress of the people of Afghanistan.

Similarly, a series of congratulatory messages have been received from the Afghan diplomatic missions abroad and employees of the embassies in London, Paris, Ulan Bator, Party Committee of the PDPA in the USSR, the party activists and youth organizations of Afghanistan in Moscow, Afghan students in Leningrad, and members of the Afghan representation at the United Nations on the occasion.

Keshtmand Addresses New Economic Council
LD161724 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 15, BAKHTAR: The first session of the economic Consultative Council after its new organisational structure was held here today with the participation of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA. Sayyed Ammanuddin Amin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the Economic Consultative Council, presented a report on the new organisational structure of the Council.

Addressing the session, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said that the Central Committee of the PDPA and the Government of the DRA have devoted permanent attention to the questions relating to the socio-economic development. Successes have been achieved despite the desperate strivings made by the imperialist circles headed by the United States in collusion with the reaction of the region and the domestic counter-revolution hampering the ensuring of peace and democratic and progressive reforms.

According to the decisions of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and the 16th Plenum of the PDPA CC changes were brought in the organisational structure of the council, said Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand. The gross national product, GNP, of the country in the last Afghan year ended March 20, 1986 has shown an increase of 1.5 billion afghanis as compared with the preceding year. GNP has risen by 6.2 percent as compared with the year 1978. The contribution of private sector industries is sufficiently high in the general level of production comprising 50 percent. There exist, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said, over 190 plants engaging in the production of chemical industries, building materials, machinery, metal work, pharmacy, paper-making, carpentry, light industries and foodstuffs.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers emphasized that the government will take steps for the formulation and approval of a new law on private investment. Under this law, necessary facilities will be introduced for the stimulation of private enterprises and the interests of the state and those of the private sector will be harmonized. The chairman of the Council of Ministers called upon the Economic Consultative Council to contribute in the formulation of the law.

Formulation of proposals on the development of domestic and foreign trade constitutes the main task of the council, said Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand. The interests of the state and those of the private sectors should be taken into account when the trade problems are tackled. The economic strength of the state should be consolidated.

The Economic Consultative Council as a member of National Fatherland Front should take a good share in the implementation of the economic policy of the party and state and should demonstrate of itself initiatives in the different sectors of the national economy, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand concluded.

Further Details
LD181745 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, today took part in the first session of the Economic Consultative Council held after forming its new organizational structure. The session was attended by members of the Economic Consultative Council. In addition, a number of ministers and deputy ministers of relevant ministries were also invited. The session began with the recitation of few verses from the Holy Koran. Sayyed Ammanuddin Amin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Economic Consultative Council, presented a report on the new organizational structure of this council and its tasks. The chairman of the Council of Ministers addressed the session and said:

While imperialist circles, headed by the United States in collusion with the reaction of the region and the internal counterrevolution, are striving with all their power to create obstacles in maintaining peace in the country and in the path of progressive and democratic reforms, the PDPA Central Committee and the Government of the DRA pay constant attention to the issues of economic and social development parallel to carrying out a successful struggle against the reactionary forces. In celebrating the 8th anniversary of the revolution, another eventful and difficult year has elapsed. The past year, as the year of jirgas, was recorded in the country's history as the year of the Loya Jirga, the High Jirga of the Tribes and the Jirga of the Border Tribes. The participants in these jirgas approved and fully supported our domestic and foreign policy.

In the past year, our country witnessed socioeconomic growth. As a result of measures by the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government in revitalizing and [words indistinct] growth of the national economy, despite the hostile activities of the counterrevolution, the gross national product of the country increased by 1.5 billion in 1364 [ended March 86] compared with 1363 and increased by 6.2 percent compared to 1357 [1978]. The national income rose by 5.5 percent compared with 1357. Now the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government have [words indistinct] all their efforts to expand the social bases of the Revolutionary Council and government. These efforts have been put forward in the 10 Theses and have received legal status in the Revolutionary Council statement. The expansion of the Revolutionary Council and of the Council of Ministers organization, the continuation of the democratic elections and the creation of new social organizations are all specific efforts that manifest the implementation of pledges made by the party and government to the people of Afghanistan.

Private sector industries, especially the handicraft industry, play a significant role in the development of the DRA economy. The share of private sector industry in the total production volume is

sufficiently high, comprising more than 50 percent. Its share in factory industries comprises nearly (?12 percent), and it accounts for a considerable share of the traditional national products such as carpet-weaving, leather goods, fur coats, pelts, and so on. According to 1364 preliminary figures, industrial goods worth 4.2 billion afghanis have been produced in private sector factories. According to the figures from the DRA Central Statistical Office, 190 private sector plants are engaging in the production of building materials, chemical industries, machinery, metallurgy, pharmacy, paper-making, carpentry, light industries, and foodstuffs.

These plants will help the people and the national economy to fully use domestic raw materials, reduce imports, attract able work forces, and also increase the export of goods produced and provide domestic markets with consumer goods.

The DRA will adopt a number of measures for the future growth of the private sector economy, for the normalization of enterprises' activities, and for the initiative of private investors. However, the work to attract private investment for the growth of the country's production capacities is being carried out weekly. A large number of establishments have been left inactive for various reasons.

The Economic Consultative Council should be involved in these specific matters. As a result of the government measures, the need for drafting a new law on private investment has been felt. In this law it is anticipated that necessary facilities should be provided for the activities of private enterprises, including an increase in production levels, provision for credit, and payment of custom taxes. Efforts should be made to harmonize state sector and private sector interests. The Economic Council should cooperate in implementing this policy.

Transport has an important role to play in the growth of the national economy. At present there are more than 27,000 transport vehicles in all to carry goods throughout the country, of which 8,700 vehicles belong to the state sector. Of some 4,700 goods transport vehicles, one fourth cooperate with the DRA Transport Ministry in carrying goods. Therefore, the duty of the Consultative Council, together with the DRA Ministry of Transport and other relevant ministries and local organs of state power and administration, is to assess the increased use of the private sector's existing goods transport vehicles in carrying state goods, especially to the provinces. This should be based on the mutual interest of the state and the owners of the private transport vehicles. The Economic Consultative Council should put forward specific proposals in this regard.

The great task of the Economic Consultative Council Committee is to put forward proposals on the immediate development of the country's domestic and foreign trade. The trade problems should be resolved in such a manner to correspond with the interests of both the state and the private sector and to consolidate the states' economic power. We should close attention to completing the system for providing consumers with goods at reasonable prices and create and complete an active system for controlling prices and trade. It is necessary that the complex of measures for enhancing the activity level of the peasantry units be put into practice. Agricultural goods production should improve in order to provide the residents of the cities with foodstuffs and provide industries with raw materials. Great significance is attached to the initiative and participation of individual peasants and national investors to increase agricultural production, establish trade units, and construct irrigation systems. Land and credit will be allocated to those firms and individuals who express a readiness to participate in the growth of agricultural production. Other necessary aid and cooperation will also be given to them.

According to the resolutions of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the 16th PDPA Plenum, necessary changes have occured in the organizational structure of the Economic Consultative Council in order to expand and enhance the level of its authority. Elected representatives of sections of trade, industry, construction, transport, agriculture, and handicraft industries that represent various sections of the economy and strata have been included in the organizational structure of the Economic Consultative Council. The activity of the Economic Consultative Council should be organized in such a manner that its role as a member of the National Fatherland Front will be put into practice according to the economic policy of the party and state and so that it will gain credit in various sections of the national economy.

The new stage of the April Revolution has provided the necessary conditions for speeding up the production forces and economy in Afghanistan in order to enhance the living standard of the working people. The successful realization of this important and historical task is possible with the cooperation and participation of all the country's nationalities, tribes, strata, and classes such as workers, peasants, national investors, and intellectuals as well as the progressive and patriotic forces. We must search for the methods and style of encouraging national investment in various sections of the national economy.

At the end of the session, two members of the Economic Consultative Council made speeches and expressed support for the policy of the party and the DRA and thanked the DRA Government for its assistance.

KYODO: Two Guerrilla Commanders Reportedly Killed

OW180947 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 18 KYODO — Two leading Afghan guerrilla commanders of Paktia Province have been killed in an operation launched by Soviet-Afghan forces in the Jaji area last Wednesday, resistance sources in Peshawar said. They said Commander Shams al-Din and Abdul Hayee, two close aides of Prof Abdur Rasool Siyyaf of Islamic Unity of Afghan mujahideen, have died during three days of fighting in the area.

A large contingent of commandos was parachuted into the area by helicopter on Wednesday to clear the way for a ground force backed by tanks and artillery. Fierce fighting was reported in the area, with both sides suffering heavy casualties. There has been an exodus of population from villages in the Pakistan border area opposite Jaji, following continuous shelling and bombing of Teri Mangal village by Afghan ground and air forces during the past week. The Pakistan Air Force downed an Afghan fighter aircraft in the same area Saturday, about 15 kilometers from the Afghan border.

Jatiya Party Wins Absolute Majority

BK200349 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] The Jatiya Party has so far won 151 seats in the 300-member parliament. A (?latest) BSS message, quoting the Election Commission, says the Jatiya Party has won absolute majority with five seats yet to be announced. Another 30 women members will be elected by the members of the Sangsad [parliament].

The latest party position is Jatiya Party, 151; Awami League, 75; Jami'at-e Islami, 10; Communist Party of Bangladesh, 5; NAP-U [National Awami Party-United], 5; Muslim League, 4; JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal]-ROB, 4; BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League], 3; JSD-Siraj, 3; Workers Party, 3; NAP-Muzaffar, 2; Independents, 30.

OBSERVER on British Criticism of Elections

BK171544 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Lord Ennals and Mr Martin Brandon Bravo, two Members of British Parliament and Mr David John Leigh of BBC told a Press conference in Dhaka on Thursday that the parliamentary elections were clearly rigged to the highest degree. They went on to add that the results announced were not based on elections held on Wednesday. They maintained that the elections were neither free nor fair. They alleged that there were false voting and significant numbers of people could not vote because booths were closed to them.

The British team said there were absolutely no fairness and justice in the election and the result did not reflect the will of the people. Mr Brandon said that the malpractices adopted in the election were quite beyond any imagination.

Replying to a question, Lord Ennals said that he had seen the Presiding Officer at a polling station casting vote on behalf of the absent voters. He said "I will not give any credibility to the results." Mr Leigh said "whatever was the result nothing would invalidate what we say".

In a joint statement the team members said that by the afternoon on the day of election certain elements had clearly swung into action to frustrate free and fair elections. The polling agents of other parties were intimidated by the JP [Jatiya Party] supporters, they added. The normal election procedures which guarantee free choice were destroyed, they observed. They further said that the hopes of political parties that the election would be free and fair were cynically frustrated. They observed that what they saw during their visit to 35 polling stations the principal offenders in rigging the elections were the Jatiya Party.

The statement also said that since their arrival the team have been able to meet leading figures in Awami League, Jami'at-e Islami, Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal, Bangladesh National Party, and Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan. Jatiya Party leaders were not ready to meet them the statement added.

The statement read out at the Press conference by Ennals expressed surprise to note "unfriendly statement by the Government," about their visit. The statment said that Bangladesh High Commissioner in London had known in advance of their acceptance of invitation by the People's Commission for Free Elections and assured them that as individuals they would be welcome. Lord Ennals was chosen as member of the team because he is known to be a friend of Bangladesh. The members also issued separate comments on the experiences during their visits sometimes together and sometimes separately.

Replying to a question Lord Ennals said that in large number of polling stations strongman of a certain party arrived in jeeps and took over control of booths. They were wearing plough signs. Mr Brandon confirming this said that in the afternoon only members with 'plough' sign could be seen.

Mr Leigh told a questioner that he did not come across any Awami League supporter taking over polling station. He visited Rowzan in Chittagong, He added. They told newsmen replying question that they have not evidence any direct intervention by armed forces. But alleged that police did not take any action despite complaints by opposition of violence.

Border Violence Discussed With Indian Officials

BK191525 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] A flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Forces [BSF] of India was held on Saturday [17 May] in Tripura over the dispute arising out of the atrocities being committed by so-called Santi Bahini members in different areas of Khagrachari District of Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Bangladesh has told the meeting that the so-called Santi Bahini men under the (?help) and patronization of BSF are killing innocent Bangladeshis, setting fire to their homes, and destroying their propety indiscriminately since 27th of last month. Santi Bahini men have continued to create terror in different regions, particularly in [names indistinct] and Panachari border aras of Khagrachari District.

The Indian side denied the allegation of Bangladesh about any involvement of BSF with the Santi Bahini atrocities and requested Bangladesh to bring back Bangladeshi citizens who took shelter in India.

Bangladesh denied any influx of refugees into Indian territory. However, Bangladesh assured the Indian side that it was ready to accept any person after proper verification.

Ministry Spokesman Voices Distress Over Sri Lanka

BK191619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] In a statement, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has said that India is distressed and disturbed by reports that the Sri Lankan Armed Forces had commenced a large-scale military operation in Jaffna peninsula, including indiscriminate aerial bombing and strafing of Jaffna city. Such continued military operations will inevitably lead to the loss of still larger numbers of innocent civilian lives and only prolong agony and suffering of people of Sri Lanka.

The Indian Government has expressed its grave concern at the massive use of force by the Sri Lankan Government at a time when the Sri Lankan leaders have repeatedly confessed their commitment to seeking a peaceful political solution to the ethnic issue.

The spokesman said the Indian Government would like to reiterate its firm view that there can be no military solution to the ethnic issue.

CPI Session Denounces U.S. 'Threats of Aggression'

BK180343 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] The 3-day session of the National Council of the Communist Party of India began in Nagpur yesterday. In a resolution, the council denounced terrorism and threats of aggression by the United States against every country which refuses to follow the dictates of Washington. The party commended all actions by the government in support of Libya, Nicaragua, and all other countries who face U.S. aggression.

Opposition Figures Criticize Presidential Ordinance

BK170432 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] The president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr L.K. Advani, has criticized the presidential ordinance by which the Center need not present to the Lok Sabha or the state assembly the reports of commissions of inquiry within 6 months. In a statement he said the ordinance is an assault on the authority of parliament.

The general secretary of the Lok Dal termed it as a negation of democracy and parliamentary procedures and misuse of ordinance-making provision.

Communist Parties Voice Criticism

BK171613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Both the communist parties of India — CPI and CPI-M — have criticized the presidential ordinance by which the Center need not present to the Lok Sabha or the state assembly the report of commissions of inquiry within 6 month.

A CPI spokesman in New Delhi described the ordinance as an attack on the rights of parliament.

In a statement the Communist Party of India-Marxist described it as uncalled for.

Congress-S has said that the ordinance is a violation of democratic procedure.

Talks With Gurkha Liberation Front Ruled Out

BK171255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has ruled out the possibility of any dialogue with the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF].

Talking to newsmen in Siliguri this morning, he said none of the demands of the GNLF were acceptable to the government. The chief minister denied that lack of development had given rise to such a movement in the Darjeeling hill area.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Traces History of Terrorism

BK191251 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has said that terrorism in Sri Lanka is no longer confined to ethnic issues but an attempt to install a communist dictatorship and destroy the democratic form of government in the country.

Addressing a religious function in (Shilao) yesterday, the president said the people behind this move were planning a mass-scale bloodshed.

Mr Jayewardene said that, therefore, the government has been compelled to wipe out terrorism and appealed (?for) the support of the whole country.

The president also explained how the terrorism originated. During the British period the people in the Jaffna peninsula enjoyed greater educational facilities due to the large number of English schools. This enabled them to dominate the public and commercial sectors far in excess to their population ration.

As the situation was changed with the independence of the country and Sinhala becoming the official language in 1956, Mr Silvanagram and the Federal Party demanded a federal administration in the north.

Later, this demand was changed for a separate state and the terrorism in the north stems from that.

The president recalled how the UNP government after assuming power in 1977 implemented some of major demands of the Tamils in consultation with their leaders.

High Commissioner: No More Clarifications on Tamils

BK191202 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Sri Lanka has made it clear to India that it was not in a position to offer any further clarifications to its latest formulations in the breaking of the impasse on the ethnic question unless the Tamils came to the negotiating table.

High Commissioner Bernard Tilakaratna called on the minister of state for personnel, P. Chidambaram, in New Delhi yesterday and discussed with him the Tamil problem and India's efforts in trying to solve it. Mr Chidambaram led an Indian Government delegation to Colombo a fortnight ago.

According to PTI, Mr Tilakaratna is understood to have conveyed Sri Lanka's view that unless Tamil groups came forward to discuss the latest formulations, there will be no purpose in providing amplifications and clarifications.

Mr Tilakaratna has also expressed the hope that there would be a positive response.

LTTE Group Plans To Use Army Against Rivals

BK181143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] The security forces have uncovered an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] plan to use the Army to eliminate some of their rival terrorist gangs. According to LANKA PUWATH, the LTTE had used some of its young members as decoys to divulge the alleged locations of the camps of some of the smaller groups to the armed forces. The LTTE's sinister motive is said to be the ultimate destruction of its rivals while launching a propaganda campaign against the government troops.

LANKA PUWATH said that the LTTE, which had terrorized the population in Jaffna and caused several deaths in the north, plans to use this card to counter the ill feeling against them in Jaffna.

Continuing Reportage on Clashes With Tamils

15 Killed Near Jaffna

BK171634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 15 persons were killed and several injured in violent incidents in the Northern Province today. At (Pikkam), about 20 kilometers from Jaffna, 12 persons were killed in a crossfire between security forces and militants.

The Sri Lanka TV said the 12 dead were militants and the Army has recovered arms and ammunitions from their possession. Unconfirmed reports, however, say five Army men were killed in the incident. One person died in Kayts. In (Quailand) 15 kilometers from Jaffna peninsula, one Air Force helicopter strafed the area. A 70 year-old man died and three, including a woman, were injured when they were caught in a crossfire between the security forces and Tamil militants at (Randpalli) airport. A soldier died when a landmine hit a security force convoy at Yakachchi, 5 kilometers from Elephant Pass. Unconfirmed reports say eight soldiers were killed. Naval shelling is on since mid-day today in at least three coastal areas in the Jaffna peninsula.

Meanwhile, about 200 Tamil employees of Sri Lanka Radio and Television have been sent on indefinite special leave. The government said that this step has been taken for their own safety.

Troops Launch Offensive

BK181611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, heavy fighting has been going in the Jaffna peninsula as security forces launched an offensive to regain control in the peninsula through a three-pronged attack. At least 24 persons were killed, many of them reportedly civilians, since the joint Army, Navy and Air Force attacks started yesterday. The action is officially described as a route-clearing operation by a Defense Ministry spokesman. Our Colombo correspondent reports that the security forces have so far been confined to their camps in the peninsula. Information reaching Colombo from

Jaffna indicates that the forces have set up at least 3 camps at Vasavillan, Kankesanthurai and Karainagar. Jaffna town wore a deserted look with tension running high. Meanwhile, six persons described as militants were killed by men from the special task force in Batticaloa District yesterday. An official spokesman said arms and ammunition have also been recovered from them.

The high commissioner of Sri Lanka, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, called on the minister of state for personnel, Mr P. Chidambaram, in New Delhi today. He discussed with the minister the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and India's efforts to find a solution.

According to PTI, Mr Tilakaratna is understood to have conveyed his government's view that unless Tamil groups come forward to discuss the latest formulation, there would be no purpose in providing amplifications and clarifications.

40 Killed In Peninsula Operation

BK190448 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, heavy fighting is continuing in almost all over the Jaffna peninsula between security forces and Tamil militants. At least 40 people were killed since the recent offensive was launched by troops on Saturday. Most of the victims are believed to be civilians. There are reports that troops are moving along the coast to cut the militant supply line.

In another front, the troops are also advancing toward the town of Jaffna. An Army spokesman said there was heavy fighting near the Jaffna air base when troops overran a school bus by the militants as an observation post. [sentence as heard]

Fighting was also reported in the town center, where three armored cars and a truck with about 25 soldiers are under seige by the militants. A 500-strong battalion has been sent to rescue the convoy.

Reports say throughout the night residents of Jaffna heard shell firing and small arms fire, indicating a fierce battle in most of the sectors of the town where the troops have ventured out of their camps. Life is at a standstill in Jaffna town with vehicles off the road and people remaining indoors. There is also acute scarcity of essential commodities, including kerosene and petrol [gasoline] in the region.

Meanwhile, about 1,200 people traveling to Jaffna have been stranded at Kilinochchi, as they are unable to proceed because of fighting. There is also no movement of civilian vehicles through the Elephant Pass for the last 4 days. All the bridges and culverts in the peninsula are being repaired to maintain motorable land routes over the Jaffna heartland.

The national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, has denied reports that an offensive has been carried out in Jaffna peninsula. He told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, this morning that the aim of the present operation is to make the military bases, Palaly Airport, and Karainagar Naval Base more secure.

Troops 'Clearing Roads'

BK191144 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Government troops were contining their operations today to clear the main access routes to their bases in the Jaffna peninsula. The national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, explained that this was not an offensive but an operation to allow for fresh troops to be inducted. He said that all the security forces were trying to do was to clear the roads leading to the main bases and make the Armed Forces bases more secured.

Informed sources said that the forces are keeping to the main roads leading to the security bases in the peninsula. But the forces are meeting resistance from terrorists attacking with rocket propelled grenades and automatic weapons. The sources also said that at least 22 terrorists were killed in the fighting since the operation began on Saturday.

Six terrorists were killed in a raid on Saturday by government troops on a terrorist hideout at Palugamam in Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the troops also recovere some weapons and explosives. There were no casualties among the troops.

'Indiscriminate' Air Force Bombing

BK191252 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, Air Force planes bombed and helicopters strafed thickly populated civilian areas in and around Jaffna town as the operation of the security forces against Tamil militants continued for the 3d day today. At least 52 people have been killed and over 100 injured in the past 60 hours.

Two Air Force bombers dropped at least 25 bombs indiscriminately on the civilian establishments this afternoon destroying many buildings, while helicopters strafed randomly causing unarmed citizens to run for cover. Panicked residents were too shocked to give any estimate of the death toll in the latest bombing.

Jaffna 'Quiet'; 64 Reportedly Killed

BK200322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, after 3 days of intensive battle the Jaffna peninsula was generally quiet last night except for sporadic gunfire. Jaffna residents confirmed that unsigned leaflets were distributed at certain parts in the town suggesting that the offensive by the security forces will be kept up unless the so-called sentry posts manned by the militants are withdrawn within the next 24 hours. However, there is no official confirmation about any such move so far.

Panic-stricken residents benumbered with fear and shock after last evening's bombing in Jaffna stayed indoors with tension still

prevailing in the city. The full details of the damage due to yesterday's bombings are still not known.

Meanwhile, 14 policemen were injured in a land mine explosion at Kalkudah in Batticaloa district yesterday. Two of the injured are reported to be in a serious condition.

The last 3 days of battle has claimed 64 lives, although the official figure is 22.

Further on Jaffna Bombing

BK200914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka three bombs were drooped over Jaffna town this morning from Air Force planes. Three planes circled over the town for a few minutes about 1030 before one of them dropped the bombs. Casualty or damages due to bombing is not yet known. Citizens had locked themselves in their houses or under safe cover to avoid injury. The town wore a deserted look and the silence was disrupted only by sporadic gunfire and bursting of occasional shells.

An official spokesmen of the joint operation command in Colombo said that the operation is not yet complete. He said thesecurity forces will strengthen their position in Kayts and Palaly areas and the security forces proceeding along the Elephant Pass had to get back to the camp. The operation in this sector has been abandoned because of attacks by militants. A group will be established at Kayts to provide stability to Karainagar, a naval base, and (?securings) of outer parameters of Palaly Airfield has commenced.

While answering questions, the spokesman gave the impression that either the operations were proceeding at a much slower pace or have been virtually called off. Written statements issued at the briefing gave sector details of the future course of action. The government also informed today six deaths in yesterday's air action in Jaffna town terming those killed as terrorists. It, however, did not rule out higher casualties.

Khamene'i Receives Air Force Commander Sediq

LD181333 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Iran's president and head of the Supreme Defence Council, Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i received Air Force Commander Colonel Hushang Sediq here Sunday.

At the meeting, Colonel Sediq briefed the president on successful operations carried out by the Air Force and its future programmes. He also announced readiness of the Air Forces to carry out any sensitive mission. President Khamene'i was also briefed on development of technical projects and pilot training schools.

Meanwhile, to support Iranian war efforts against the Iraqi Army, medical teams from throughout the country departed for the warfronts. A team, including surgeons and laboratory technicians, was despatched by health organization in Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Province, while relief workers from Red Crescent Society in Kohkiluyeh went to the battlefields after passing a two-month training course.

Foreign Minister Meets With Kuwaiti Charge, FRG Envoy

LD171151 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] This morning the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires met with Foreign Minister Velayati. He delivered a written message from the Amir of Kuwait in reply to President Khamene'i's message.

In a meeting between the FRG ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr Velayati, cooperation between the two countries and problems related to various projects that are in the process of being completed were examined. During the meeting, the FRG ambassador mentioned the invitation extended by the foreign minister of his country to the minister of foreign affairs of our country to visit the FRG.

In addition, Mr Velayati, in a message, expressed greetings and congratulations to the foreign minister of Norway on the occasion of Norway's national day, 17 May.

Message From Kuwaiti Amir

LD171635 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — Kuwaiti charge d'affaires to the Islamic Republic, Qasim Ma'rafi Saturday met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and submitted a written message from Kuwaiti amir, Shaykh al-Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah in reply to president 'Ali Khamene'i's letter.

Iran's charge d'affaires to Kuwait, Mohammad Reza Baqeri submitted a written message of President 'Ali Khamene'i addressed to the Kuwaiti amir to that country's foreign minister in late April. In his message, the president had requested that Iran and Kuwait take joint measures against barbaric U.S. aggression against Libya.

FRG Envoy on Mutual Cooperation

LD171154 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — Issues of Mutual cooperation were discussed in a meeting between Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany A. Fraetag here Saturday. The two sides also discussed problems of projects to be completed. Mutual cooperations between Iran and Germany include construction of road building machinery, and various fields of industry, and energy. The ambassador renewed the invitation of FRG Foreign Minister to Dr. Velayati to visit Germany.

Kuwaiti Paper Details Bahrain-Qatar Dispute

GF160755 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN* has reported that the installations attacked by Qatari aircraft last month during the clashes that took place between Qatar and Bahrain on Fasht al-Dibal island belonged to the GCC. *AL-WATAN* added that the installations — which were built by a Netherlands company — were a center for monitoring ships in the Persian Gulf in order to notify them of possible air attacks.

Citing diplomatic sources in London, *AL-WATAN* stated that in recent days Bahrain has reinforced its positions on the Hawar Islands and on the Bahrain coast, and cancelled all leave for military personnel. *AL-WATAN* stated that Qatar has also adopted a series of measures against Bahrain, including deporting Bahraini students to Bahrain and preventing Bahraini boats from fishing in the disputed areas.

Guards Corps' Rahman Leaves for Tripoli

LD191559 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — An Iranian politico-military delegation headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani in charge of the Basij (Mobilization) unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, left for Tripoli, Libya Monday at the invitation of the Libyan Government. Hoj. Rahmani is carrying a verbal message from President Khamene'i for Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Accompanied by a group of Foreign Ministry officials the delegation is to meet with political and military officials of Libya and visit military training centers in that country.

Pakistani Paper on Recruiting U.S. Prisoners

GF191143 Lahore JANG in Urdu 14 May 86 p 1

[Text] London (*JANG* Foreign Desk) — Iran has begun to recruit dangerous prisoners during their terms of imprisonment in American jails. A report published locally indicates that supporters of the extremist regime in Iran have contacted disgruntled black prisoners in all of the big prisons in the United States. These agents also have direct contacts with Ayatollah Khomeyni.

According to this report the Shi'ites in the United States have established small communes in various cities in which released prisoners are accommodated. A similar commune has been established in Washington close to the White House. This commune is guarded by armed men. The report adds that the released prisoners swear allegiance to Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Kurdish Rebels Liberate Areas in Northern Iraq

GF180546 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries announced in a statement issued today that they have liberated an area of 500 square kilometers in northern Iraq and captured 800 Iraqi troops. The statement, sent to AP in Nicosia, stated that the attacks against the forces of Saddam's regime began last Wednesday in the Al-Kut District in northern Iraq and are still going on.

During the attacks they captured two tanks, three armored troop carriers, several anti-aircraft guns, and large quantities of the Saddamist enemy's munitions.

The statement added that the forces of the Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries are posing a direct threat to Al-Kut city and the international highway linking Iraq and Turkey in northern Iraq.

New Battalions Depart For War Fronts

LD191148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 86

[Excerpt] The Central News Unit reports from Sari that yesterday two fresh battalions, comprising the popular forces of Mazandaran, left for battlefronts from Martyr Raja'i garrison in Chalus. The battalions had just completed their training in such fields as relief courses, use of RPG's, and sniping.

Moreover, yesterday a group of holy warriors, specializing as first class drivers, relief workers, welders, boatmen, and other services, left for battlefronts to help Islamic combatants from Mazandaran.

More Reinforcements Leave

LD191833 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Fresh combat and support troops from nine Iranian cities left for the Iraqi imposed war fronts as newspapers in the capital analysed Iraqi military strategy Monday [19 May]. Volunteer combatants marched under the glorious flag of Islam in the streets of their home towns before boarding buses for the battlefronts. Despite summer heat and the holy lunar month of Ramadan when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, the stream of volunteers towards the war zone has been picking up.

In the northern city of Rasht, elite members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps left the city barracks to join other caravans from neighbouring towns. Several volunteer units of auto mechanics, communications technicians, road construction engineers, and trucks drivers accompanied the caravans.

Other troops have reportedly set out for the battlefronts from such far-flung areas of the country as Rasht, Bushehr, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Mashhad, Kashan, Kerman, Yasuj, Tabriz, and Shiraz and their nearby villages.

Meanwhile newspapers in the capital discussed escalation of fighting in the war fronts and predicted an Iraqi defeat in the war. The Persian daily *RESALAT* [as received] said the new Iraqi military efforts are aimed at taking an initiative in the war and reducing pressure in areas where Iranian military presence is becoming unbearable to the Iraqi forces.

In an article titled "Al-Faw-to-Faqeh the graveyard of Ba'thists" the paper brushed off the new Iraqi efforts as insignificant and said Iraq had adopted a similar strategy in 1982 when Iran was planning the Fath-al-Mobin offensive. The paper predicted that the Iraqi Army will soon lose its array in the Faqqeh region under the pressure of Iran's Islamic combatants.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Forces Repelled Near Mehran

LD190641 Tehran IRNA in English 0629 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Prov, May 19, IRNA — The Islamic Forces of Iran engaged in a heavy battle with the Iraqi forces in Mehran area, 75 kms southwest of Ilam, Sunday repelled the Iraqi forces from Eslamiyeh (Showhan) Township and the Rezaabad area, north of Mehran. The Islamic forces of Iran in this operation were backed by the Army Aviation service and with the help of the heavy artillery units made the enemy to retreat from the southern part of Mehran.

In the course of the fighting during the past two days a large number of Iraqis were killed or injured and 45 Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers were destroyed.

Heavy fighting is reported to be continuing in Mehran taken by the Iraqi forces May 17 in a bid to offset the effect of the liberation of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw by the Islamic forces of Iran and to make up for the humiliating defeats.

Air Raid on Mehran

LD190848 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — The Iranian Fighter-bombers in two successive raids Monday morning pounded the Iraqi forces' positions in Mehran area, 75 kms southwest of Ilam, western Iran, said a joint Staff statement issued here Monday morning.

The Iranian planes inflicted heavy losses and damage on enemy's armoured forces and troop concentration areas and returned safely to their bases, the statement added.

19 May Report on Operations

LD191705 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] According to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 0615, 0640, and at 1300 today, fighter-bombers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran heavily bombed concentration points and armored forces positions of the Iraqi aggressors in the Mehran operational sector and after inflicting heavy damage and casualties on the enemy returned safely to their bases.

On the basis of the same report, yesterday, the brave warriors of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran intercepted and inspected five foreign merchant ships in Hormuz Strait, but did not see anything suspicious.

At 0300 today, a relatively heavy clash began in the 2519 heights region, in the northwestern sector, and our forces, who are in full control of these heights, opened intense artillery fire and inflicted heavy losses and damage on the Ba'thist enemy. Yesterday's Iraqi losses and casualties on the northwestern front were: full destruction of parts of their positions and fortifications, including 5 tanks, 4 heavy and light vehicles; 5 enemy ammunition depots were set ablaze and more than 220 enemy troops were either killed or wounded.

On the country's western front, it is reported that the exchange of fire was more intense in the Mehran operational sector and the clashes in this sector are continuing. Thanks to the artillery fire of the combatants of Islam yesterday, the aggressive enemy suffered the following damage and casualties: four of their ammunition depots were blown up and destroyed, about 10 of their heavy-weapons emplacements and observation posts and 1 truck were destroyed. During their patrol missions our forces also captured an enemy soldier.

Sporadic exchanges of fire between the combatants of Islam and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist forces continued on the southern front and was more intense in the operational sectors of Sharhani, Kushk, and the Majnun Islands. Yesterday, the enemy batteries continued pounding various districts of Abadan.

500 Iraqi Casualties in Mehran

LD191735 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran during two counter-assaults against Iraqi forces in Mehran Sunday killed or wounded over 270 Iraqi soldiers, bringing to 500, the Iraqi casualty toll in the region until Monday morning. Iranian Muslim combatants have so far liberated the townships of Rezaabad, Eslamiyeh, Showhan in the region.

Meanwhile, Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi positions in west and South Mehran twice early Monday inflicting substantial losses on them. Some 11 Iraqi tanks have been hit and demolished by helicopters of Iranian aviation service in Mehran.

Muslim forces also cleared Rezaabad hill in north Mehran of Iraqi armoured Unit Monday destroying six tanks and an undetermined amount of Iraqi military hardware.

An Iraqi Counter-offensive against Iranian positions in the Rezaabad hill was smashed and Iraqi forces sustained casualties and losses and eventually retreated. Iranian Muslim combatants hold the upper hand in the region where fierce fighting still continues.

Iraqi Casualties Reach 1,000

LD191925 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 19, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran repulled a desparate Iraqi assault north of Mehran Monday killing and wounding at least 500 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing ten tanks as well as other military hardware.

The Iranian Muslim fighters forced the enemy to withdraw while inflicting heavy losses and damage on the defeated Iraqi army in the said region. Over the past three days, some 55 Iraqi tanks have been destroyed in Mehran operational region.

Earlier Iraqi casualty figures were put at 500 bringing total enemy dead or wounded in the region to 1,000.

'Successful Operation' in Mehran

LD201139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] A Central News Unit correspondent has sent a report on this morning's operations of the forces of Islam in the Mehran operational sector, on the Iran-Iraq border, to which we draw your attention:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O combative ummah of Iran, since the early hours of this morning, while relying on the Almighty, the forces of monotheism attacked the heart of the positions and fortifications of the Zionist enemy in the Mehran sector, on the Iran-Iraq border. During a successful operation they crushed two armored and infantry battalions from the 59th Armored Brigade and 42d Infantry Brigade of the 17th Division of the Iraqi aggressor forces, destroying their personnel together with their equipment, which had been presented to them by the superpowers.

Also this morning, a tank and its crew, disgusted with the injustices of the Zionist regime of Iraq, surrendered to the forces of Islam and were welcomed by them.

Meanwhile, at 0630 hours today, brave Iranian Air Force pilots, with a number of their fighter-bombers, heavily bombed enemy positions, fortifications and communication lines in the Mehran border region inside Iraq, inflicting heavy losses and casualties. After the sortie, the brave pilots of the forces of monotheism returned safely to their bases.

According to another report from the Mehran operational sector, on the Iran-Iraq border, the fast-flying eagles of the Army

aviation, during a series of operations, from 0715 hours today attacked enemy positions, fortifications and armored equipment with missiles [mushak], destroying several tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles, and other equipment and killing or injuring dozens of the Ba'thist aggressors. The excessive traffic of enemy ambulances testified to the fact that fatal blows were dealt to the Zionist forces of IRAQ today.

At present, heavy exchanges of fire continue in the Mehran border region. While maintaining superiority of firepower, the forces of monotheism defend every inch of our Islamic homeland.

Fighter-Bombers Attack Iraqi Forces

LD200706 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit Iraqi group concentration positions in Mehran opeational theater, on Iran-Iraq border, twice Tuesday morning. A joint staff communique released here said that the attacks were carried out at 05:20 (01:50 GMT) and 05:30 (02:00 GMT) respectively. The Iranian fighter-bombers, inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the Iraqi Ba'thist forces returned safely to their bases, the communique added.

Iraqi Positions Strafed

GF200733 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Our Air Force fighters twice strafed the positions of the Ba'thist-Iraqi-Zionist forces in the Mehran operations region early today. This was reported by the Army's joint communique. The communique added that after our fighters shelled the positions of the aggressors and inflicted serious losses and damage on them, they all returned safely to their bases.